



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Democrats Applaud Medicaid Inspector General Actions

Rochester, New York –February 23, 2009. Democrats in the County Legislature are applauding the recent announcement by the Medicaid Inspector General's Office that they have discovered and stopped multi-million dollar Medicaid overpayments made to a local pharmacy.

Democratic Leader Harry B. Bronson (D-Rochester, Brighton & Henrietta) said, "Today's announcement is a positive first step toward ensuring the sales tax dollars spent on this County's Medicaid bill are appropriately used and protected against misuse. The announcement is a reminder that while Medicaid recipient fraud is certainly an issue we must face, misuse by providers often proves much more costly to local taxpayers. We must take every action possible to ensure providers are held accountable for their actions while protecting those among us who are in need of this critical service."

According to County Officials, the pharmacy in question received a total of about \$20 million in Medicaid payments for the years covered by the investigation announced today. The alleged overpayments—\$3.3 million—amount to more than 16% of the pharmacy's total Medicaid payments for those years.

"While today's announcement is to be applauded, I am troubled that until now, the County administration has been so lax towards investigating providers. It should not have taken almost five years to discover that more than 16% of one pharmacy's payments were questionable. I trust that with the involvement of the Medicaid Inspector General's Office, we will be able to increase the enforcement actions of this nature and I am encouraged by what I have seen thus far," Bronson said.

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