



JUL 24 2008

Washington, D.C. 20201

Gerald J. Coyne
Deputy Attorney General
State of Rhode Island
150 South Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Coyne:

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has received your request to review the Rhode Island False Claims Act, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 9-1.1-1 through 9-1.1-8, under the requirements of section 6031(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA). Section 6031 of the DRA provides a financial incentive for states to enact laws that establish liability to the state for individuals and entities that submit false or fraudulent claims to the state Medicaid program. For a state to qualify for this incentive, the state law must meet certain requirements enumerated under section 6031(b) of the DRA, as determined by the Inspector General of HHS in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

We understand that Rhode Island has enacted two versions of the Rhode Island False Claims Act. The law found at Budget Article 18, Section 1, ceased being effective on February 15, 2008, and another law, found at Budget Article 18, Section 2, became effective on that date. Based on our review and consultation with DOJ, we have determined that the law found at Section 2 of Budget Article 18, currently in effect, meets the requirements of section 6031(b) of the DRA.

Please note that a state that has a law in effect that OIG has determined meets the requirements of section 6031(b) of the DRA will be deemed in compliance with such requirements for so long as the law continues to meet such requirements. We would appreciate it if you would notify OIG of any amendment to the Rhode Island False Claims Act within 30 days after such amendment.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me, or your staff may contact Susan Elter Gillin at (202)-205-9426 or susan.gillin@oig.hhs.gov or Katie Arnholt at (202) 205-3203 or katie.arnholt@oig.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel R. Levinson".

Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General

cc: Aaron Blight, CMS