



UNITED STATES RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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*Announcement*

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U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Inspector General Martin J. Dickman is pleased to announce that on December 26, 2007 President Bush signed H.R. 2764, the fiscal year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. H.R. 2764 reinstated Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Medicare oversight authority to the Railroad Retirement Board - Office of Inspector General (RRB-OIG).

RRB administers Medicare benefits for approximately 496,000 retired or disabled railroad workers. In fiscal year 2007, RRB Medicare paid out approximately \$897 million for Part B medical services. RRB is responsible for certain Medicare program activities such as enrollment, premium collection, answering beneficiary inquiries and conducting the annual carrier performance evaluation for the Medicare carrier. RRB manages one nationwide contract with Palmetto GBA for processing Medicare Part B claims for all railroad beneficiaries. The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes RRB-OIG to conduct oversight activities, such as audits and investigations, for all programs and operations conducted by the RRB. However, a prior appropriations bill contained a prohibition against RRB-OIG performing any Medicare related reviews, audits, or investigations. The removal of the Medicare oversight prohibition is consistent with the statutory responsibility assigned to the RRB-OIG under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. While thanking the President and Congress for removing this prohibition, Inspector General Dickman stated "We do not take this responsibility lightly and will work hard to safeguard Medicare trust funds for retired or disabled railroad workers and their families."

Suspected fraud, waste, or abuse in the RRB Medicare program should be reported to the RRB-OIG Hotline at 1-800-772-4258.