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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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October 17, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mary K. Wakefield, PhD, RN
Administrator
Health Research and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fisher's Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Wakefield:

On October 7, 2011, I sent you a letter regarding the removal of public access to the National Practitioner Data Bank's (NPDB's) Public Use File (PUF). Cynthia Grubbs, Director of the Division of Practitioner Data Banks, updated a member of my staff on a conference call on October 14, 2011, with respect to the removal of the PUF. This discussion raised questions that could not be answered during the call.

In addition to your written responses to my letter of October 7, please provide:

1. Copies of any letters or other communications that your office has had with Kansas area hospitals with respect to Dr. Robert Tenny.
2. Copies of any letter or other communications that your office has had with any outside facility, entity, reporter or news outlet regarding possible republication of information from the NPDB.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Erika Smith of the Senate Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member