

**Patricia A. Gresko**

**Medicare Fraud Testimony**

Chairman Nelson, Ranking members of the committee, distinguished senators, I am honored to be here today to give you my story as a victim of Medicare Fraud.

I live in Romeo, Michigan where I worked for the public school system for 25 years. My favorite part of that job was working with adult and alternative education programs. Getting students to stay in school and get their diploma was a very fulfilling accomplishment. I will also count it a great accomplishment if in sharing my story today, I can prevent other Seniors on Medicare from going through what I did.

I saw a doctor in Michigan for the first time several years ago, who told me I had a problem with my immune system. This doctor was personable and dignified, and I trusted him. I thought, like all doctors, he would have my best interests at heart.

This doctor told me I had a problem with my immune system, and that I needed an IV medication monthly. So I began these infusions in January of 2013. During my very first treatment, I had side effects. I had chest pains, and was worried that it was my heart. The doctor told me that he needed to slow down the rate of the infusion. So, I continued to get these treatments for seven months. Each of these treatments took 7 hours.

I was shocked when I heard that my doctor had been arrested and taken into custody for Medicare fraud. The newspapers said he had diagnosed people with cancer who didn't have it, just so he could bill Medicare for the treatments.

I started worrying about my own treatments, and did some research. The deficiency my doctor said I had in my immune system, a low level of something called IgM, couldn't be replaced. So I went to see two different doctors, one of which was a specialist. Both agreed that I did not need the IV medication.

Over the course of seven months, I had paid this doctor over \$1500 in co-pays. I later found out he had received over \$14,000 for giving me these treatments.

I have three grown children (two sons and a daughter) who will one day be on Medicare. I don't want them to ever experience what I went through. And, if there are doctors out there like this one, I worry that Medicare will not be there for my children.

I am hopeful that by telling my story, you will take action to prevent doctors like that from getting into Medicare, and ensure that the program will be there for many generations to come.

Thank you,