

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

For Immediate Release  
Monday, April 22, 2002

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## Waxman, Grassley Applaud HHS Decision to Post Complaint Data on Web

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member of the Government Reform Committee, and Sen. Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance, today congratulated the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for their decision to post nursing home complaint data. CMS Administrator Tom Scully sent a letter to Rep. Waxman and Sen. Grassley stating that the data would be posted on their website in May.

"I am very pleased by HHS's announcement that they will post nursing home complaint violations on the Nursing Home Compare website," said Rep. Waxman. "Families need to have access to the full compliance history of nursing homes so they can make good decisions for loved ones. The posting of this data is a significant step forward."

Sen. Grassley said, "I appreciate the agency's interest in improving consumer information about nursing homes. As our nation ages, more and more families will need nursing homes for their relatives. Families will welcome this new tool to help them pick a good nursing home."

In February 2002, Rep. Waxman and Sen. Grassley released a report that found that the HHS website did not include information on violations found during complaint inspections of nursing homes. The report found that, as a result of this problem, information on thousands of serious violations was not available on the Nursing Home Compare website, potentially misleading families about nursing home conditions. When the report was released, Rep. Waxman and Sen. Grassley wrote to HHS Administrator Tom Scully to urge that the information be added to the site.

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[Editor's Note: Interested reporters can obtain the report and correspondence between Rep. Waxman and Sen. Grassley and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the Committee on Government Reform Democratic website at [www.house.gov/reform/min](http://www.house.gov/reform/min).]