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The Honorable Peter Roskam
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Roskam and Blumenauer:

Zebra Technologies Corporation is pleased to offer our endorsement of H.R. 6690, the Fighting Fraud to Protect Care for Seniors Act. We strongly support the bill's goal of significantly reducing fraud and waste in the Medicare program and we commend both of you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation.

With decades of experience in healthcare, retail, transportation and logistics, manufacturing, and government, Zebra is a leading global technology company that is pioneering products, software, services, analytics and solutions at the edge of the enterprise to intelligently connect people, assets and data. We provide enterprise customers with the best-action guidance needed to optimize in-motion operations and business-critical decisions.

In our view, H.R. 6690 injects an important level of accountability into the Medicare program by electronically verifying that providers billing Medicare are actually seeing beneficiaries and attributing bills correctly to the Medicare program. It does this by authorizing a pilot program that will use a modernized 'smart' Medicare card for beneficiaries seeking services, equipment, or prescriptions. A Medicare smart card, similar to chip-based financial services cards, will provide strong authentication of beneficiaries and directly link them electronically to their providers, thereby establishing a definitive connection between services and payments.

Implementing a smart card pilot will test the capability of a secure card to reduce fraud and improper payments in Medicare in a measured and accountable way. Across every business sector, smart card solutions have proven to consistently – and significantly – reduce fraud. Smart cards can also bring much needed transparency to the Medicare payments system by creating an easily-audited trail of all transactions.

While we appreciate that this solution will not solve all of Medicare's challenges, it will help to create much needed transparency in the payment process. Modernizing the Medicare card will help reduce improper payment rates and result in dramatic benefits to both Medicare beneficiaries and the American taxpayer.

Again, we thank and commend you for your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Richardson, Zebra's Outside Counsel on Government Affairs, at (202) 256-4953 or via email at krichardson@heartlandsolutionsgroup.com should you or your staffs have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cristen L. Kogl
Senior Vice President,
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary