Senate taxwriters to examine improper payments under EITC, Medicare, Medicaid

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, announced this week that his panel will hold a hearing on October 1 to examine “improper payments” under the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Medicare, and Medicaid. US Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is scheduled to testify.

According to GAO estimates cited in a Finance Committee release announcing the hearing, improper payments from federal programs in 2014 totaled $124.7 billion (up from $105 billion in 2013). The EITC, Medicare, and Medicaid accounted for 76 percent of all improper payments in fiscal year 2014.

“Every single taxpayer dollar that is misallocated takes precious resources away from programs meant to serve our nation’s most vulnerable,” Hatch commented in the release. “Congress owes it to taxpayers and beneficiaries to address fragmentation, overlap, and duplication in the federal bureaucracy that lead to improper payments on a bipartisan basis, and this hearing will give Committee members the opportunity to examine solutions to do so.”

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