

Page 2 - The Honorable Albert Gore

In addition, the report discusses a related problem with the current payment formula that results in an unintended increase in Medicare payments -- the so-called "formula driven overpayment." We believe this result was not intended by Congress. If Congress chooses to address this issue, the correction can be made separately or as part of the implementation of a prospective payment system.

I am also sending a copy of this report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna E. Shalala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Donna E. Shalala

Enclosure