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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2011

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HOGGE SENTENCED IN HEALTH CARE FRAUD SCHEME

Hammond, IN—The United States Attorney's office today announced that on March 25, 2011, Jonathan Hogge, 43, of Munster, Indiana was sentenced to 84 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$254,425.57 in restitution following pleading guilty, without the benefit of a plea agreement from the government, to one count of conspiracy, nine counts of mail fraud, and one count of wire fraud. He was also fined \$1,100.

Hogge was the founder and former president of My Smart Benefits, Inc. ("MSB"), a company located in Hammond, Indiana, that provided dental benefits to businesses, which includes labor union health and welfare funds, and individuals across the United States. Hogge was charged by grand jury indictment in 2007, and convicted of defrauding the participants in 2009 following an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of the Inspector General and the Employee Benefits Security Administration. MSB closed its doors in 2003 after Hogge's fraud was discovered.

"Hogge, through MSB, defrauded both employers and their workers in 35 states of benefits important to the well-being of their families," said Steve Haugen, Regional Director of the Employee Benefits Security Administration in Chicago. "As the third-party administrator to over 1,100 dental plans, he disregarded his obligation to honestly provide the services covered by these plans."

This indictment was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of the Inspector General and the Employee Benefits Security Administration. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jesse Barrett.

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