

Grassley looking at tax status of 2 local hospitals

Resurrection and Advocate Health among 10 named by senator

By Brett Chase
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Two Chicago-area hospital systems are being asked by a U.S. lawmaker to account for their charitable activities that are required to retain tax-exempt status.

Resurrection Health Care and Advocate Health Care are among 10 U.S. hospital systems being challenged by Sen. Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican.

Sen. Grassley says in a letter dated today and released to the media that he is investigating non-profit organizations before he introduces legislation that would prevent abuses of the tax exemptions.

"It's my duty to make sure charitable donations actually help those in needs," Grassley wrote. "It's also my job to make sure charities are earning their generous tax breaks."

The issue of charity care and tax exemptions was highlighted recently when the labor union AFSCME challenged Resurrection, saying the hospital system didn't live up to its obligations to treat the poor.