

Neurosurgery Testifies before Congress: Urges Repeal of Medicare Board

On July 13, 2011, AANS/CNS Washington Committee Chairman, Alex B. Valadka, testified in Congress before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Representing the Alliance of Specialty Medicine, a coalition of 12 medical societies representing 100,000 physicians, Dr. Valadka called on Congress to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB. The IPAB was created as part of the health reform law and is a board of 15 individuals appointed by the President whose primary job is to cut Medicare spending. IPAB cuts go into effect in 2015, and would be in addition to other Medicare spending cuts related to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, electronic prescribing and quality penalties, and other periodic changes to the Medicare Fee Schedule. The AANS and CNS strongly opposed the creation of IPAB and we are now joining the more than 300 other organizations in calling for its immediate repeal.

Details of the hearing, including the Alliance testimony, can be found at:

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=8684>. Stay tuned for more communications from the Washington Office about this topic. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact Katie O. Orrico, Director of the AANS/CNS Washington Office at <mailto:korrigo@neurosurgery.org>.