



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

October 3, 2017

RE: Support passage of H.R. 849, the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, we write to thank you for scheduling committee consideration of H.R. 849, the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017, authored by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) and Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA).

The Alliance strongly opposes the IPAB or any other board resulting in an inappropriate delegation of Congress' oversight responsibilities. Significant health care decisions must not be made by a group of unelected, unaccountable individuals with little or no clinical expertise or the oversight required to protect access to care for America's seniors. The Alliance is concerned that the IPAB will arbitrarily ratchet down provider reimbursement, without sufficient oversight and without care taken to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive the quality health care that they need and deserve. Further, the Board is required to selectively exempt certain providers from its purview – placing more pressure to cut Medicare reimbursements in areas under its jurisdiction.

The Alliance understands and appreciates concerns with the rising costs of health care. However, the process and structure of the IPAB is fraught with potential unintended consequences and the IPAB lacks the clinical expertise and the research capacity to examine the national and regional effects of proposed recommendations to ensure patients are not unduly impacted.

We appreciate your consideration and urge the committee to favorably report out H.R. 849 which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists