



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

February 2, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader,
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader,
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) repeal – H.R. 849, S. 251, S. 260

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and Pelosi:

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 urge that Congress act to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). The Alliance supports inclusion of H.R. 849, S. 251, or S. 260 as part of the upcoming continuing resolution (CR).

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.

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and 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 & 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 • Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

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 urge Congress to act as soon as possible to repeal the IPAB. To date, the Board has not been established and Congress has taken action to prevent funds from being used to operate IPAB. Repealing IPAB should not require an offset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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