

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

THOMAS A. MARSHALL, *Executive Director*
5550 Meadowbrook Drive
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone: 888-566-AANS
Fax: 847-378-0600
info@aans.org



CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

DAVID A. WESTMAN, *Executive Director*
10 North Martingale Road, Suite 190
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone: 877-517-1CNS
FAX: 847-240-0804
info@1CNS.org

President
WILLIAM T. COULDWELL, MD PHD
Salt Lake City, Utah

President
ALI R. REZAI, MD
Columbus, Ohio

June 20, 2013

Editor, The Wall Street Journal
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

Dear Editor:

In the June 20 op-ed on p. A-21 by David Rivkin and Elizabeth Foley, "An ObamaCare Board Answerable to No One," the authors hit the nail on the head regarding the plethora of problems stemming from the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) – and the board's dubious constitutionality.

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) are leading a physician coalition dedicated to repealing the IPAB. The coalition represents more than 350,000 physicians across 26 specialty physician groups.

Not only is there widespread agreement amongst healthcare stakeholders that IPAB is bad news for Medicare patients, but there is also bipartisan legislation moving forward in Congress to get rid of this Medicare board.

The AANS and CNS strongly urge repeal of the IPAB because leaving Medicare policy decisions in the hands of an unelected, unaccountable governmental body with minimal congressional oversight will negatively affect timely access to quality care for our nation's senior citizens and those with disabilities. Neurosurgery recognizes that we need to control the growth of healthcare spending, but the IPAB is simply the wrong solution for addressing these budgetary challenges.

Sincerely,



William T. Couldwell, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Ali R. Rezai, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons