



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

January 28, 2013

Honorable Phil Roe
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Allyson Schwartz
1227 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Roe and Schwartz,

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, the Alliance supports your bipartisan legislation, H.R. 351, which would repeal the **Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)** included as part of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (P.L. 111-148).

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 therefore strongly support your legislation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS)
American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)
American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS)
American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)
American Society of Echocardiography (ASE)
American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS)
American Urological Association (AUA)
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)
Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS)
North American Spine Society (NASS)
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)
Society for Excellence in Eyecare (SEE)

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Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions • Society for Excellence in Eyecare