

*As of March 7, 2012*

Dear Member of Congress:

The organizations listed below represent a breadth of entities including all sectors of the healthcare industry, employers of different sizes and geographic locations, as well as purchasers of care, consumers and patients. We all share the conviction that the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) will not only severely limit Medicare beneficiaries' access to care but also increase healthcare costs that are shifted onto the private sector. While we all recognize the need for more sustainable healthcare costs, we do not believe the IPAB is the way to, or will, accomplish this goal.

As you know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA [P.L. 111-148]) created the IPAB, a board appointed by the President and empowered to make recommendations to cut spending in Medicare if its spending growth reaches certain measures. The IPAB will have unprecedented power with little oversight, even though it has the power to literally change laws previously enacted by Congress. Further, the law specifically prohibits administrative or judicial review of the Secretary's implementation of a recommendation contained in an IPAB proposal.

We are deeply concerned about the impact the IPAB will have on patient access to quality healthcare. The bulk of any recommended spending reductions will almost certainly come in the form of payment cuts to Medicare providers. This will affect patient access to care and innovative therapies. In the past five years for which data is available, the number of physicians unable to accept new Medicare patients because of low reimbursement rates has more than doubled. According to an American Medical Association survey, current reimbursement rates have already led 17 percent of all doctors, including 31 percent of primary care physicians, to restrict the number of Medicare patients in their practices. In all likelihood, the IPAB will only exacerbate this problem.

While we are all supportive of improving the quality of care in this country, we are concerned that the IPAB will not be able to focus on improving healthcare and delivery system reforms, as some of its proponents have suggested. Requiring the IPAB to achieve scoreable savings in a one-year time period is not conducive to generating savings through long-term delivery system reforms. According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation issue brief, "[w]hile the requirement to achieve Medicare savings for the implementation year provides a clear direction and target for the Board, it may discourage the type of longer-term policy change that could be most important for Medicare and the underlying growth in health care costs, including delivery system reforms that MedPAC and others have recommended which are included in the ACA – and which generally require several years to achieve savings. If these delivery system reforms are not 'scoreable' for the first year of implementation, the IPAB may be more likely to consider more predictable, short-term scoreable savings, such as reductions in payment updates for certain providers." The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has in fact stated that the Board is likely to focus its recommendations on changes to payment rates or methodologies for services in the fee-for-service sector by non-exempt providers. Again, this will have a severe, negative impact on Medicare beneficiaries.

Last, we believe that the IPAB sets a dangerous precedent for overriding the normal legislative process. Congress is a representative body that has a duty to legislate on issues of public policy.

Abdicating this responsibility to an unelected and unaccountable board removes our elected officials from the decision-making process for a program that millions of our nation's seniors and disabled individuals rely upon, endangering the important dialogue that takes place between elected officials and their constituents.

We do not believe the IPAB is the right way to achieve savings in Medicare and strongly urge Congress to eliminate this provision.

Sincerely,

Abigail Alliance

Action CF

AdvaMed

Advocates for Responsible Care

AIDS Delaware

AIDS Drug Assistance Programs Advocacy  
Association

AIDS Housing Association of Tacoma

AIDS Institute

Alabama Orthopaedic Society

Alabama Podiatric Medical Association

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Alaska State Grange

Alder Health Services, Inc.

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance of Specialty Medicine

ALung Technologies, Inc.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center

Alzheimer's Arkansas

American Academy of Facial Plastic &  
Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Otolaryngology –  
Head and Neck Surgery

American Academy of Physical Medicine and  
Rehabilitation

American Association for the Study of Liver  
Diseases

American Association of Clinical  
Endocrinologists

American Association of Clinical Urologists

American Association for Homecare

American Association for Marriage and  
Family Therapy

American Association of Neurological  
Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic  
Executives

American Association of Orthopaedic  
Surgeons

American Autoimmune Related Diseases  
Association

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Emergency Physicians –  
Indiana Chapter

American College of Mohs Surgery

American College of Osteopathic Surgeons

American College of Radiology

American College of Surgeons - Missouri Chapter  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Liver Foundation - Allegheny Division  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of General Surgeons  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Radiation Oncology  
American Urological Association  
Americans for Prosperity  
Amigos por la Salud  
Arizona BioIndustry Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arizona Podiatric Medical Association  
Arizona Urological Society  
Arkansas Medical Society  
Arkansas Orthopaedic Society  
Arkansas Podiatric Medical Association  
Associated Industries of Florida  
Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - California Chapter  
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - New England Chapter  
Bay Bio  
BEACON (Biomedical Engineering Alliance & Consortium), Connecticut  
BIOCOM  
BioNJ  
BioOhio  
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)  
Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce  
California Healthcare Institute  
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce  
California Medical Association  
California Orthopaedic Association  
California Podiatric Medical Association  
California Rheumatology Alliance  
California Urological Association  
Capital Region Action Against Breast Cancer!  
Center of the American Experiment  
Children's Rare Disease Network  
Coalition for Affordable Health Coverage  
Coalition of State Rheumatology  
Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics & Gynecology Organizations  
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians  
Colorado BioScience Association  
Colorado Cross-Disability Association  
Colorado Gerontological Society  
Colorado Podiatric Medical Association

Colorado Retail Council	Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons
Colorado Springs Health Partners	Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Community Health Charities of Florida	Florida Transplant Survivor's Coalition
Community Health Charities of Nebraska	Florida Urological Society
Congress of Neurological Surgeons	Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies
Community Oncology Alliance	Georgia Bio
Connecticut Orthopaedic Society	Georgia Orthopaedic Society
Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association	Georgia Podiatric Medical Association
Connecticut State Urology Society	Global Genes
Delaware Academy of Medicine	Global Healthy Living Foundation
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Delaware HIV Consortium	HEALS of the South
Delaware Podiatric Medical Association	Healthcare Institute of New Jersey
Delaware State Orthopaedic Society	Healthcare Leadership Council
Docs 4 Patient Care	HealthHIV
Easter Seals	Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland
Easter Seals Crossroads	Heart Rhythm Society
Easter Seals Iowa	Hoosier Owners and Providers for the Elderly
Easter Seals of Arkansas	Idaho Medical Association
Easter Seals of Maine	Idaho Podiatric Medical Association
Easter Seals of Massachusetts	Illinois Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Easter Seals of New Jersey	Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization—iBIO®
Easter Seals of Southeastern PA	Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Easter Seals of South Florida	Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
Easter Seals UCP North Carolina	Indiana Health Care Association
Elder Care Advocacy of Florida	Indiana Health Industry Forum
Florida Chamber of Commerce	Indiana Medical Device Manufacturers Council, Inc.
Florida Medical Association	Indiana Neurological Society
Florida Podiatric Medical Association	
Florida Society of Neurology	
Florida Society of Rheumatology	

Indiana Podiatric Medical Association  
Indiana State Medical Association  
InterAmerican College of Physicians & Surgeons  
International Franchise Association  
International Institute for Human Empowerment  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
Iowa Orthopaedic Society  
Iowa Podiatric Medical Association  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kansas Podiatric Medical Association  
Kansas Urological Association  
Kentucky BioAlliance  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Kentucky Podiatric Medical Association  
Kidney Cancer Association of Illinois  
Large Urology Group Practice Association  
Latino Diabetes Association  
Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Lupus Alliance of America - Hudson Valley Affiliate  
Lupus Alliance of America - Queens and Long Island Affiliate  
Lupus Alliance of America - Southern Tier Affiliate  
Lupus Alliance of America - Upstate New York Affiliate  
Lupus Foundation of Arkansas

Lupus Foundation of America, DC/MD/VA Chapter  
Lupus Foundation of Florida  
Lupus Foundation of Mid and Northern New York  
Lupus Foundation of the Genesee Valley  
Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania  
Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center  
Maine Health Care Association  
Maine Osteopathic Association  
Maine Podiatric Medical Association  
Maine State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America  
Maryland Orthopaedic Association  
Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Association for Behavioral Health Systems  
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health  
Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives  
Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council  
Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association  
Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Society  
Medical Association of Georgia  
Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
Men's Health Network  
Mental Health America of Indiana  
Mental Health America of Greater Houston

MichBio	National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
Michigan Chamber of Commerce	National Association of People with AIDS
Michigan College of Emergency Physicians	National Association of Social Workers NC
Michigan Podiatric Medical Association	National Association of Spine Specialists
Michigan Orthopaedic Society	National Council of Negro Women
Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists	National Council of Negro Women - Los Angeles View Park Section
Minnesota Podiatric Medical Association	National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
Minnesota State Grange	National Health Foundation
Mississippi Arthritis and Rheumatism Society	National Hemophilia Foundation - Delaware Valley Chapter
Mississippi Orthopaedic Society	National Kidney Foundation - Ohio Chapter
Mississippi Podiatric Medical Association	National Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association	National Minority Quality Forum
Missouri Urological Association	National Retail Federation
Montana Orthopaedic Society	NCBIO
National Alliance on Mental Illness	Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants
National Alliance on Mental Illness Colorado	Nebraska Medical Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness Florida	Nebraska Orthopaedic Society
National Alliance on Mental Illness Georgia	Nebraska Urological Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness Indiana	Neurofibromatosis Mid-Atlantic
National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine	Nevada Orthopaedic Society
National Alliance on Mental Illness Michigan	Nevada Podiatric Medical Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness NC	Nevada State Medical Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas	New Hampshire State Grange
National Association for Home Care & Hospice	New Horizons Home Health Services
National Association for Home Care & Hospice - Indiana Chapter	New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
National Association for Home Care & Hospice - Ohio Chapter	New Jersey Mayors Committee of Life Science
National Association for Uniformed Services	New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society
National Association of Manufacturers	

New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association  
New York Podiatric Medical Association  
New York State Rheumatologists Society  
New York State Urological Society  
North Carolina Association on Aging  
North Carolina Psychological Association  
North Carolina Rheumatology Association  
North Carolina Urological Association  
North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
North Dakota Medical Association  
North Dakota Policy Council  
Northwest Urological Society  
Ohio Association of Ambulatory Surgery  
Centers  
Ohio Association of County Behavioral  
Health Authorities  
Ohio Association of Medical Equipment  
Services  
Ohio Hospital Association  
Ohio Orthopaedic Society  
Ohio State Grange  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Ohio Urological Society  
Ohio Veterans United  
Oklahoma Podiatric Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Orthopaedic Society  
Oklahoma State Urologic Association  
Old North State Medical Society  
Oregon Medical Association  
Oregon Podiatric Medical Association  
Partners in Care Foundation

Partnership for Drug Free North Carolina  
Pennsylvania BIO  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business &  
Industry  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society  
Personal Coaching & Psychotherapy for  
Women  
PhRMA  
Premier healthcare alliance  
RARE Project  
RetireSafe  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
Rio Grande Foundation, New Mexico  
Rocky Mountain Stroke Center  
Rural Health IT  
Sanfilippo Foundation for Children  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and  
Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Urologic Oncology  
South Carolina BIO  
South Carolina HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task  
Force  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Carolina Orthopaedic Association  
South Carolina Podiatric Medical Association  
South Carolina Urological Association  
South Dakota Podiatric Medical Association  
South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society  
South Jersey Geriatric Care PC

South Jersey Senior Networking Group  
 Southeastern Medical Device Association  
 (SEMDA)  
 Southwest Michigan Pharmacist Association  
 Stockton Center on Successful Aging  
 Syndicus Scientific Services  
 Team Sanfilippo Foundation  
 Tennessee Medical Association  
 Tennessee Orthopaedic Society  
 Tennessee Podiatric Medical Association  
 Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute  
 Texas Podiatric Medical Association  
 Texas Urological Society  
 The Center for Health Care Services  
 The G.R.E.E.N. Foundation  
 The National Grange  
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
 U.S. Pain Foundation  
 Urology Society of New Jersey  
 Utah Medical Association  
 Utah Podiatric Medical Association  
 Utah State Orthopaedic Society  
 Vascular Society of New Jersey  
 Vermont Medical Society  
 Vermont Podiatric Medical Association  
 Veterans Health Council  
 VHA Inc.  
 Vietnam Veterans of America  
 Virginia Biotechnology Association  
 Virginia Podiatric Medical Association  
 Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio  
 Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical  
 Association  
 Washington Free Clinic Association  
 Washington Osteopathic Medical Association  
 Washington State Podiatric Medical  
 Association  
 Washington Rheumatology Association  
 Washington State Medical Association  
 Washington State Urology Society  
 WERAK Foundation  
 West Virginia Academy of Otolaryngology  
 West Virginia Chapter of the American  
 College of Cardiology  
 West Virginia Manufacturer's Association  
 West Virginia Orthopaedic Society  
 West Virginia State Medical Association  
 William "Hicks" Anderson Community  
 Center  
 Wisconsin Hospital Association  
 Wisconsin Urological Society  
 Wyoming State Grange  
 Women Against Prostate Cancer