



March 20, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) is pleased to support passage of H.R. 452, the *Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2012*, which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) established in the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. The CAP represents 18,000 physician pathologists who are specialists in diagnostic medicine and provide patient care through diagnostic test selection, performance, interpretation, and direction on optimal therapy options to patients and clinicians.

We appreciate the leadership of the House in bringing this legislation to the floor for consideration. We understand that the IPAB repeal bill will also address medical liability reform. The CAP has long advocated for meaningful medical liability reform and supports H.R. 5, the *Help, Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (Health) Act of 2011*.

Beginning with fiscal year 2015, if Medicare is projected to grow too quickly, IPAB – a 15 member board -- will make recommendations to Congress to reduce spending. These cuts to the Medicare program are binding unless Congress passes an alternative measure that achieves the same level of savings. Recently, the Administration has called for increasing the panel's authority, raising more alarm about its potential to control access to care.

The CAP is concerned that IPAB will create an unelected and unaccountable body that will effectively usurp congressional oversight of the Medicare program, potentially leading to limitations on care for our nation's seniors. We are also concerned that IPAB could make it difficult for Medicare beneficiaries, patient advocates and providers to work with Congress to fully air changes to the program, whether this means ways in which to curb costs and improve quality or ensuring access to new and better treatments, procedures and technologies.

Again, we support passage of H.R. 452 and look forward to working with you on this and other important patient care issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Scott".

John Scott
Vice President, Advocacy Division