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Omar Ishrak  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of Medtronic, the world's leading medical technology company – alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for people with chronic disease – we urge you to give favorable consideration to H.R. 452, the “Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011” to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) created as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

We have concern for our patients, physicians and hospital partners that this Board is empowered to make changes that would remove Congress from the critical health care decision-making process. As you know, the IPAB is required to make recommendations to cut Medicare if its spending growth reaches certain levels. Further, the law specifically prohibits administrative or judicial review of the Secretary's implementation of a recommendation contained in an IPAB proposal.

We are troubled about the potential impact the IPAB will have on patient access. With the preponderance of any recommended spending reductions likely coming in the form of payment cuts to Medicare providers, we believe this would threaten patient access to care and innovative therapies. The IPAB process is simply untenable as it lacks meaningful input from key stakeholders, including clinicians that understand best standards of care, or accountability to the Congress.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact [melissa.d.schooley@medtronic.com](mailto:melissa.d.schooley@medtronic.com) or [peter.b.slone@medtronic.com](mailto:peter.b.slone@medtronic.com) in our Government Affairs office.

Sincerely,

Omar Ishrak  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer