



February 28, 2012

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts
420 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sirs,

Rep. Phil Roe has introduced H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act, which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). Today, the Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce will markup this bill. The IPAB, created by ObamaCare to reduce Medicare spending, will end Medicare as we know it by limiting the health care treatment options of America's senior citizens. **Therefore, on behalf of Independent Women's Voice, I strongly urge you to vote for H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act.**

The Medicare program is undeniably in need of reform. But the Independent Payment Advisory Board is the wrong direction. IPAB's fifteen unelected members will be charged with making sweeping health care decisions for millions of Americans, and will ultimately restrict the treatments and protocols that are accessible. Not only will this result in lower quality of care and less individualized patient treatment, it will discourage the creation of new life-saving and life-enhancing medical breakthroughs.

Furthermore, the IPAB represents yet another unconstitutional aspect of ObamaCare. In fact, the Goldwater Institute has filed a suit in federal court, alleging that the creation of IPAB erodes the separation of powers in our government. The IPAB centralizes too much power in the hands of unaccountable bureaucrats. "Recommendations" from the IPAB become law unless super-majorities in both houses of Congress vote to stop them. The Constitution designates Congress as our law-making body, so it should be up to Congress to make tough decisions about Medicare, not an unelected board of elites who will meet behind closed doors.

Lastly, the IPAB gets in the way of real Medicare reform. The program already faces unfunded liabilities as large as \$25 trillion. The costs of the program are expected to double by 2050, as 78 million baby boomers retire. To address this cost problem, Congress should act to put more control into the hands of individuals – not the IPAB. Only individuals can decide how to best use their health care dollars. Bureaucracies who attempt to do this ultimately reduce people to medical averages and use statistics to ration care.

Unsurprisingly given the fundamentally flawed nature of IPAB, there is broad bipartisan support for repealing this aspect of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Therefore we urge you to vote for H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act, and repeal the IPAB immediately. We simply cannot allow this destructive, unpopular, and potentially unconstitutional board to move forward and come between seniors and their health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HRH', is written over a horizontal blue line.

Heather R. Higgins
President & CEO
Independent Women's Voice