

May 7, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations – representing Medicare beneficiaries and patients, all sectors of the healthcare industry as well as employers and other purchasers of care – believe strongly that the Medicare program must protect patient access to quality healthcare. The Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), not only poses a threat to that access but also, once activated, will shift healthcare costs to consumers in the private sector and infringe upon the decisionmaking responsibilities and prerogatives of the Congress. We request your support to repeal IPAB.

IPAB, as constructed under PPACA, is a board comprised of Presidential appointees who will be charged with making recommendations to cut Medicare expenditures if spending growth reaches an arbitrary level. Once the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) implements an IPAB recommendation, that action is not subject to administrative or judicial review. As constructed, IPAB is granted unprecedented powers – even the ability to change laws previously enacted by Congress – with virtually no oversight.

The potential impact of this board causes deep concern among our organizations and the millions of Americans we represent. IPAB proponents suggest that the board will be an asset in developing needed healthcare delivery reforms. That goal, however, is not realistically achievable. The law requires IPAB to achieve scoreable savings within a one-year time period. Thus, instead of pursuing long-term reforms that may not achieve immediate savings, IPAB is more likely to consider short-term savings in the form of payment cuts for healthcare providers. This was, in fact, the conclusion of the Congressional Budget Office, which stated that IPAB is most likely to focus on payment rates or methodologies for services provided by non-exempt providers.

This would be devastating for patients, affecting access to care and innovative therapies. Already, the number of physicians unable to accept new Medicare patients due to low reimbursement rates has been increasing over the past several years (with almost one of every three primary care physicians, according to the American Medical Association, restricting the number of Medicare patients in their practice). IPAB-generated payment reductions would only increase the access difficulties faced by too many Medicare beneficiaries. Furthermore, payment reductions to Medicare providers will almost certainly result in a shifting of health costs to employers and consumers in the private sector.

Under IPAB's provisions, the responsibility for enacting healthcare system changes of this magnitude would be transferred from the legislative branch to the executive. More specifically, an unelected board without adequate oversight or accountability would be taking actions historically reserved for the public's elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate. This is an unacceptable decisionmaking process for a program that millions of our nation's seniors and individuals with disabilities rely upon.

Moreover, if IPAB does not act within the law's required timeframe or if IPAB members are not appointed by the President or confirmed by the Senate, the law transfers IPAB's responsibilities solely to the HHS Secretary. This places an enormous degree of power in the hands of one unelected individual.

We strongly support bringing greater cost-efficiency to the Medicare program. We also advocate continuing efforts to improve the quality of care delivered to Medicare beneficiaries. The Independent Payment Advisory Board will achieve neither of these objectives and will only weaken, not strengthen, a program critical to the health and well-being of current and future beneficiaries. We urge Congress to eliminate the IPAB provision.

Sincerely,

1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition  
60 Plus Alabama  
60 Plus Association  
A Partnership Of Diabetics  
AAHS – American Association for Hand Surgery  
Action CF  
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)  
AdvaMed - the Advanced Medical Technology Association  
Advocates for Responsible Care  
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families  
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America  
AIDS Outreach Montana  
AIDS Resource Center Ohio  
AIDS Response Seacoast  
AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region  
Alabama ACEP  
Alabama Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers  
Alabama Council of Community Mental Health Boards  
Alabama Hospital Association  
Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network  
Alabama Podiatric Medical Association  
Alabama Society for Clinical Social Work  
Alaska ACEP  
Alliance for Patient Access  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin  
Alzheimer's Arkansas  
Alzheimer's Association - Capital of Texas Chapter  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association for Hand Surgery  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association  
American Behcet's Disease Association

American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists  
American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Oklahoma Chapter  
American Kidney Fund  
American Medical Association  
American Military Society  
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Osteopathic College of Rheumatology  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Urological Association  
Amgen  
Arizona Bioindustry Association (AZBio)  
Arizona College of Emergency Physicians  
Arizona Urological Society  
Arkansas Chapter ACEP  
Arkansas Orthopaedic Society  
Arkansas Podiatric Medical Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Arthritis Foundation South Central Region  
ASES – American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons  
ASSH – American Society for the Surgery of the Hand  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter  
BayBio  
BEACON - Biomedical Engineering Alliance & Consortium  
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association  
BioBuzz Workforce Foundation  
Biocom  
BioFlorida  
BIOforward  
BioHouston  
BioKansas  
BioNorthTX  
BioOhio  
Bioscience Association of West Virginia  
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)  
BioUtah  
Birmingham Neurosurgery and Spine Group, PC

Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation  
Brain Injury Association of Nebraska  
California ACEP  
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce  
California Association of Neurological Surgeons, Inc  
California Health Collaborative  
California Healthcare Institute (CHI)  
California Hepatitis C Task Force  
California Podiatric Medical Association  
California Senior Advocates League  
California Urological Association  
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce  
Campbell Clinic  
Caregivers for Living, LLC  
Center for Health Care Services  
Center for Healthcare Innovation  
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network  
Centro de mi Salud  
Charleston Parkinson's Support Group  
City of New Orleans  
CNY HIV Care Network  
COAAA  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Colorado BioScience Association  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
Colorado Gerontological Society  
Colorado Podiatric Medical Association  
Colorado's Insurance Consultant, LLC  
Combined Health Agencies  
Communicating for America, Inc.  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Community Health Action Network  
Community Health Charities  
Community Health Charities of Florida  
Community Health Charities of Nebraska  
Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas  
Community Liver Alliance  
Community Oncology Alliance  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association  
Council for Affordable Health Coverage  
CPEM, Inc  
CSRA Area Agency on Aging  
Dallas Association of Health Underwriters  
Decatur Ambulatory Surgery Center  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware HIV Consortium  
Delaware Public Health Association  
Dia de la Mujer Latina  
Diversified Planning, Ltd.

Easter Seals  
Easter Seals Central and Southeast Ohio Inc.  
Easter Seals Iowa  
Easter Seals Massachusetts  
Easter Seals Nebraska  
Easter Seals North Georgia  
Easter Seals of Southeastern PA  
Eastern Orthopaedic Association  
EDSers United Foundation  
Eisai Inc.  
Elder Care Advocacy of Florida  
Eli Lilly and Company  
ELLAS  
Endometriosis Association  
Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend  
Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee  
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago  
Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County  
Epilepsy Foundation of Western Wisconsin  
Familia Unida Living with MS  
FCEP Florida College of Emergency Physicians  
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health~ CO Chapter  
Filipino American Service Group Inc. (FASGI)  
First Step House  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society  
Florida Neurosurgical Society  
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association  
Florida Partners in Crisis  
Florida Podiatric Medical Association  
Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
Florida Society of Rheumatology  
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
Geaux Group  
Georgia Bio  
Georgia Commission on Women  
Georgia Osteoporosis Initiative  
Georgia Podiatric Medical Association  
Georgia Women's Institute  
Global Liver Institute  
Granite State Taxpayers  
Greater North Dakota Chamber  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce  
H.E.A.L.S of the South  
Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association  
Healthcare Innovation Exchange  
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
HealthHIV

Healthy African American Families  
Hispanic CREO  
Hopkins County Memorial Hospital  
IB & A, LLC  
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network  
Illinois College of Emergency Physicians  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Illinois Neurological Institute  
INACEP  
Independent Medical Providers Action Council  
Indiana Health Industry Forum  
Indiana Podiatric Medical Association  
Indiana University Health, Inc.  
Insight Human Services  
International Foundation for Autoimmune Arthritis  
International Institute of Human Empowerment  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
Iowa ACEP  
Iowa Biotechnology Association  
Iowa Orthopaedic Society  
Iowa Podiatric Medical Society  
Iowa State Grange  
Iris  
IU Health  
JobKeeper Alliance  
Johnson & Johnson  
Julian CNA Training School  
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine  
Kansas Podiatric Medical Association  
Kansas Urological Association  
Kentucky ACEP  
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Kentucky Life Sciences Council  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Kentucky Psychiatric Medical Association  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Kidney Care Partners  
Knee Society  
Latin American Chamber of Commerce  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Latino Diabetes Association  
Life Sciences Greenhouse of Central PA  
LifeScience Alley  
Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.  
Long Island Minority AIDS Coalition  
Los Angeles Wellness Station  
Louisiana Alumni, Sigma Kappa GNO  
Louisiana Latino Health Coalition for HIV/AIDS Awareness  
Louisiana Liberty 64  
Louisiana Lifespan Respite Coalition  
Louisiana Podiatric Medical Association

Louisiana Womens' Network  
Lower New York Chapter, The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation New England  
Lupus Foundation of America, DC/MD/VA Chapter  
Lupus Foundation of Arkansas, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of Northern California  
Lupus Foundation of PA  
Lupus Foundation of Southern California  
Lupus LA  
MA Health Council  
MACEP Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians  
Maine ACEP  
Malecare Cancer Support  
Manufacture Alabama  
Maryland Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians  
Maryland Orthopaedic Association  
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc.  
Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems  
Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC)  
MassBio  
Maxima Home Health LLC  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Medical Association of Georgia  
Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Medical News  
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
MedTech Association  
MemorialCare Health System  
Men's Health Network  
Mental Health America of Montana  
Mental Health Systems  
Merck  
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Michigan Association of Neurological Surgeons  
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association - MichBio  
Michigan College of Emergency Physicians  
Michigan Lupus Foundation  
Michigan Orthopaedic Society  
Michigan Osteopathic Association  
Minnesota Chapter ACEP  
Minnesota State Grange  
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
Missouri Urological Society  
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Montana Chapter ACEP  
Montana Manufacturing Council  
Montana Orthopedic Society  
Multiple Sclerosis Resources of Central New York, Inc.  
MUSC  
NAMI Alabama  
NAMI Florida  
NAMI Greater Des Moines  
NAMI in Buffalo & Erie County  
NAMI Iowa  
NAMI Knox Licking County Ohio  
NAMI Maryland  
NAMI Mass  
NAMI Montana  
NAMI Nebraska  
NAMI New Mexico  
NAMI Northern Nevada  
NAMI Ohio  
NAMI Rochester  
NAMI Sioux Falls  
NAMI Stark County  
NAMI Virginia  
NASW Texas  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alliance on Mental Illness – NAMI Kansas  
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Central Suffolk  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Association of Hepatitis Task Forces  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Association of Social Workers - NC Chapter  
National Association of Social Workers - Virginia Chapter  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Center for Policy Analysis  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Council for Behavioral Health  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association  
National Grange  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Minority Quality Forum  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Retail Federation  
National Rural Health Association  
National Spasmodic Torticollis Association  
NCCEP North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nebraska Rural Health Association  
Nebraska State Grange  
Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom



Neuro Network Partners  
Neurofibromatosis, Inc. Mid-Atlantic  
New England Biotech Association  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
New Jersey Chapter ACEP  
New Jersey Mayors Committee on Life Science  
New Mexico Chapter ACEP  
New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association  
New York ACEP  
New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons  
New York State Neurological Society  
New York State Rheumatology Society  
New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc.  
New York State Urological Society  
North Carolina Chamber  
North Carolina Foot & Ankle Society  
North Carolina Psychological Association  
North Dakota Chapter ACEP  
North Dakota Medical Association  
North Dakota Podiatric Medical Association  
Northeast Kidney Foundation  
Northern Utah Coalition, Inc.  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
Occasional Riot  
Ogden Branch of the NAACP  
Ohio ACEP  
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities  
Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice  
Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association  
Ohio Jewish Communities  
Ohio Orthopaedic Society  
Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Ohio State Grange  
Ohio Veterans United  
OK Bio  
Oklahoma ACEP  
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association  
Oklahoma Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.  
Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiologists  
Oklahoma Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
ONEgeneration  
Oregon Medical Association  
Oregon Neurosurgical Society  
Oregon Podiatric Medical Association  
Oregon Urological Society  
Orthopaedic Society of Oklahoma  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California

PA Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Parkinson's Association  
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeons of North America  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians  
Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society  
Pennsylvania State Grange  
Perennial Services Network  
Pfizer  
PhRMA  
Plaza Community Services  
POSNA – Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America  
Premier healthcare alliance  
Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County, Inc.  
Prevent Blindness Iowa  
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Progressive Leaders of Louisiana  
Rainy Day Patriots  
Respiratory Health Association  
RetireSafe  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
Rhode Island Tech Collective  
Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association  
RIPMA  
Rush To Live  
SAGE Utah  
Salud U.S.A.  
Sanofi US  
SC Podiatric Medical Association (SCPMA)  
Scoliosis Research Society  
Sea Island Pediatrics  
Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging  
Seniors Golden Hammer  
Seniors Helping Seniors  
SESAUA  
Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
Smile Community Action Partnership  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Urologic Oncology  
Society of Urology Chairs and Program Directors  
Solidarity Project Advocacy Center  
South Carolina BIO  
South Carolina Hospital Association  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Carolina Medical Group Management Association (SCMGMA)

South Carolina Nurses Association  
South Carolina Orthopaedic Association, Inc.  
South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology  
South Carolina Urological Association  
South Dakota Biotech  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society  
South Florida Cancer Association  
Southern Orthopaedic Association  
State Chamber of Oklahoma  
State of Texas Kidney Foundation  
StopAfib.org  
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education  
Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals, USA Inc.  
TCEP Texas College of Emergency Physicians  
Tech Council of Maryland  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Tennessee Orthopaedic Society  
Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice  
Texas Association of Business  
Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons  
Texas BioAlliance  
Texas Health Resources  
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute  
Texas Life Science Collaboration Center  
Texas Neurological Society  
Texas Nurse Practitioners  
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association  
Texas Pain Society  
Texas Podiatric Medical Association  
Texas State Grange  
The Advocacy Council of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
The AIDS Institute  
The Benefits Consultancy  
The Jeffersonian Project  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Marilyn Fagan Ovarian Cancer Patient Advocacy Program (ICAN-Hawaii)  
The Meeting Group, Inc.  
The National Association of Catholic Nurses - U.S.A.  
The National Catholic Bioethics Center  
The Surgery Center of Huntsville  
The US Oncology Network  
The Wall Las Memorias Project  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Pain Foundation  
Union Pacific Railroad Employees Health Systems  
Utah Advocates  
Utah Medical Association  
Utah Pride Center  
Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness

Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons, Inc.  
Veterans Health Council  
VHA  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota  
Virginia Bio  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Podiatric Medical Association  
Visiting Nurse Association  
Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio  
Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association  
Washington State Podiatric Medical Association  
Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Washington State Urology Society  
Wellness Station  
West Virginia Orthopaedic Society  
West Virginia Psychological Association  
Western Orthopaedic Association  
Western Section American Urological Association  
Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons (WAOPS)  
Wisconsin Hospital Association  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce  
Wisconsin State Grange  
Wound Care Clinic - ESU  
WPMA-Wisconsin Podiatric Medical Association  
Wyoming Epilepsy Association  
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer