

May 6, 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
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