

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you prepare the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013, we would ask that you provide no funding for the Independent Payment Advisory Board and prohibit federal funds from being used to support the activities of the board.

When Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), it surrendered to 15 unelected, presidentially-appointed bureaucrats the power to set the future direction of Medicare. Decisions that have a significant impact on quality of life—and in the most extreme cases, on life and death—should be made by patients and their doctors. The IPAB would step into the middle of this relationship, and threaten seniors' access to essential medical care.

This denial-of-care board is empowered to cut Medicare payments to providers. Given that Medicare already pays below-market prices, it is likely that such cuts would force providers to turn seniors away. Something must be done to save the Medicare program for current beneficiaries and the next generation, but IPAB only compounds the problem. Members of both parties recognize this, as indicated by the 20 Democratic cosponsors of H.R. 452, legislation that would repeal IPAB.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



David P. Roe (TN-01)



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