

April 25, 2013

Dear Member of Congress:

The organizations listed below represent a breadth of entities including all sectors of the healthcare industry, employers of different sizes and geographic locations, as well as purchasers of care, consumers and patients. We all share the conviction that the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) will not only severely limit Medicare beneficiaries' access to care but also increase healthcare costs that are shifted onto employers and working men and women in the private sector. While we all recognize the need for more sustainable healthcare costs, we do not believe IPAB is the way to, or will, accomplish this goal.

As you know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA [P.L. 111-148]) created IPAB, a board appointed by the President and empowered to make recommendations to cut spending in Medicare if its spending growth reaches certain arbitrary levels. IPAB will have unprecedented power with little oversight, even though it has the power to literally change laws previously enacted by Congress. Further, the law specifically prohibits administrative or judicial review of the Secretary's implementation of a recommendation contained in an IPAB proposal.

We are deeply concerned about the impact IPAB will have on patient access to quality healthcare. The bulk of any recommended spending reductions will almost certainly come in the form of payment cuts to Medicare providers. This will affect patient access to care and innovative therapies. In the past five years for which data is available, the number of physicians unable to accept new Medicare patients because of low reimbursement rates has more than doubled. According to an American Medical Association survey, current reimbursement rates have already led 17 percent of all doctors, including 31 percent of primary care physicians, to restrict the number of Medicare patients in their practices. In all likelihood, IPAB will only exacerbate this problem.

While we are all supportive of improving the quality of care in this country, we are concerned that IPAB will not be able to focus on improving healthcare and delivery system reforms, as some of its proponents have suggested. Requiring IPAB to achieve scoreable savings in a one-year time period is not conducive to generating savings through long-term delivery system reforms. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation issue brief, "[w]hile the requirement to achieve Medicare savings for the implementation year provides a clear direction and target for the Board, it may discourage the type of longer-term policy change that could be most important for Medicare and the underlying growth in health care costs, including delivery system reforms that MedPAC and others have recommended which are included in the ACA – and which generally require several years to achieve savings. If these delivery system reforms are not 'scoreable' for the first year of implementation, the IPAB may be more likely to consider more predictable, short-term scoreable savings, such as reductions in payment updates for certain providers." The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has in fact stated that the Board is likely to focus its recommendations on changes to payment rates or methodologies for services in the fee-for-service sector by non-exempt providers. Again, this will have a severe, negative impact on Medicare beneficiaries.

Last, we believe that IPAB sets a dangerous precedent for overriding the normal legislative process. Congress is a representative body that has a duty to legislate on issues of public policy. Abdicating this responsibility to an unelected and unaccountable board removes our elected officials from the decision-making process for a program that millions of our nation's seniors and disabled individuals rely upon, endangering the important dialogue that takes place between elected officials and their constituents. Moreover, if the Board is never made operative, a provision in PPACA transfers IPAB's power to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, concentrating the enormous power in the hands of one individual.

We do not believe IPAB is the right way to achieve savings in Medicare and strongly urge Congress to eliminate this provision.

Sincerely,

A Partnership of Diabetics (A-POD)

Access Network

Action CF

ActionAIDS

AdvaMed

Advanced Cancer Therapeutics

Advocates for Responsible Care

AIDS Alliance

AIDS Outreach Montana

AIDS Response Seacoast

AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region

Alabama Council for Community Mental Health Boards

Alabama Disabilities Leadership Council

Alabama Family Trust

Alabama Hospital Association

Alabama JobKeeper Alliance

Alabama Lifespan Respite Resources Network

Alabama Podiatric Medical Association

Alaska Podiatric Medical Association

Alaska State Grange

Alder Health Services, Inc.

Allergy and Asthma Foundation, Texas Chapter
Alliance Community Services
Alliance of Specialty Medicine
Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
Alzheimer's Arkansas
Alzheimer's Association - Oklahoma and Arkansas Chapter
Alzheimer's Dementia & Resource Center (ARDC)
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Executives
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Emergency Physicians – Indiana Chapter
American College of Mohs Surgeons
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American College of Surgeons - Missouri Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Liver Foundation - Allegheny Division
American Medical Association (AMA)
American Osteopathic Association
American Physical Therapy Association

American Podiatric Medical Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Breast Surgeons
American Society of Cataract and Refractory Surgeons
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Radiation Oncology
American Urological Association
Americans for Prosperity
Americans for Prosperity, Florida Chapter
Amigos por la Salud
Arches Natural Products, Inc.
Arizona Podiatric Medical Association
Arizona Urological Society
Arkansas Medical Society
Arkansas Orthopaedic Society
Arkansas Podiatric Medical Association
Arthritis Association of Louisiana
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Associated Industries of Missouri
Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc.
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - New England Chapter
AZBio – the Arizona BioIndustry Association
BayBio
BEACON (Biomedical Engineering Alliance & Consortium, Hartford, CT)
Bingham County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
BIOCOM
BioForward
BioHouston
BioNJ
BioOhio
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

BioUtah
Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce
Blue Ribbon Advocacy Alliance
Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions
California Black Health Network
California Healthcare Institute (CHI)
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
California Medical Association
California Orthopaedic Association
California Podiatric Medical Association
California Rheumatology Alliance
California Senior Advocates League
California Urological Association
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
Campbell Clinic
Cardiology Advocacy Alliance
Center for Mental Health
Center of the American Experiment
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Christian Coalition of Alabama
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Colorado Bioscience Association
Colorado Gerontological Society
Colorado Podiatric Medical Association
Colorado Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Colorado Springs Health Partners
Combined Health Agencies
Commonwealth Neurological Society
Community Health Charities of Florida
Community Health Charities of Iowa
Community Health Charities of Nebraska
Community Health Charities of Wisconsin

Community Oncology Alliance
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association
Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE)
Council for Affordable Health Coverage
D'Souza and Associates
Delaware Academy of Medicine
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Delaware HIV Consortium
Delaware Podiatric Medical Association
Delaware Public Health Association
Des Moines WomenHeart
Dia de la Mujer Latina
Diabetes Dayton
Disabled Rights Action Committee
District of Columbia Podiatric Medical Association
Docs 4 Patient Care
East Cooper Community Outreach
Easter Seals
Easter Seals Arkansas
Easter Seals Iowa
Easter Seals of Central Texas
Easter Seals of Massachusetts
Easter Seals of Southeastern PA
Easter Seals UCP North Carolina and Virginia
Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Network
Elder Care Advocacy Florida
Elderserve
Embracing Latina Leadership Alliances (ELLAS)
Endometriosis Association
Epilepsy California of San Diego County
Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee

Epilepsy Foundation of Western Wisconsin
Familia Unida - Living With Multiple Sclerosis
Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI)
First Step House
FirstLight Senior Care
Florida Academy of Family Physicians
Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society, Inc
Florida Partners in Crisis
Florida Podiatric Medical Association
Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
Florida Society of Neurology
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Florida Transplant Survivors Coalition
Florida Urological Society
Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies, Inc.
Georgia Bio (GaBIO)
Georgia Orthopaedic Society
Georgia Podiatric Medical Association
Global Genes Project
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Granite State Taxpayers
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
GuardiaCare
H.E.A.L.S. of the South
Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association
Hayden Senior Gems
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)
Healthcare Leadership Council

Healthcare Navigators
HealthHIV
Healthy African American Families II
Healthy Heritage Movement
Hematology Oncology Society of Ohio
Hemophilia Foundation of Oregon
Idaho Podiatric Medical Association
Idaho State Grange
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization—iBIO®
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Illinois Podiatric Medical Association
Independent Medical Providers Action Council of Oklahoma
Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Podiatric Medical Association
Instructive Visiting Nurse Association
Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons
International Autoimmune Arthritis Movement
International Institute for Human Empowerment
Iowa Biotechnology Association
Iowa Orthopaedic Society
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
Iowa Podiatric Medical Association
Iowa State Grange
It's About Me Breast Cancer Awareness Association
JDRF, Utah Chapter
Jefferson Council on Aging
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Kansas Bio
Kansas Podiatric Medical Association
Kansas State Grange

Kansas Urological Association
Kentucky Bio Alliance
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Medical Association
Kentucky Podiatric Medical Association
KeyVive
Kidney Cancer Association
Large Urology Group Practice Association
Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Utah
Latino American Chamber of Commerce of Connecticut
Leadership Jefferson County
Leading Age Texas
License Professional Counselors Association of Georgia
LifeScience Alley
Louisiana Podiatric Medical Association
Lupus Alliance of America - Long Island/Queens Affiliate
Lupus Alliance of America - New York Southern Tier Affiliate
Lupus Alliance of America - Upstate New York Affiliate
Lupus Foundation of America DC/MD/VA Chapter
Lupus Foundation of America, Arkansas Chapter
Lupus Foundation of America, Memphis Area Chapter
Lupus Foundation of Florida
Lupus Foundation of Genesee Valley NY, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of Mid and Northern New York
Lupus Foundation of Northern California
Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania
Lupus Foundation of Southern California
Lupus Research Institute National Coalition
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maine Podiatric Medical Association
Malecare Cancer Support
Manufacture Alabama

Maryland Podiatric Medical Association
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems
Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives
Massachusetts Health Council
Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC)
Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Association
MassBio
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society
Medical Association of Georgia
Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Medical News
Medical News for You
Medical Society of Northern Virginia
Medical Society of the State of New York
MedTech
Memphis Medical Society
Men's Health Network
Mental Health Association of Nebraska
Mental Health Systems
MichBio (Michigan Biosciences Industry Association)
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan College of Emergency Physicians
Michigan Health & Hospital Association
Michigan Lupus Foundation
Michigan Orthopaedic Society
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Podiatric Medical Association
Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
Minnesota Podiatric Medical Association

Minnesota State Grange
Mississippi Podiatric Medical Association
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO)
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Missouri Podiatric Medical Association
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Manufacturing Council
Montana Orthopaedic Society
Montana Podiatric Medical Association
Montana State Grange
NAMI California
NAMI Colorado
NAMI Florida
NAMI Georgia
NAMI Indiana
NAMI Iowa
NAMI Kansas
NAMI Kentucky
NAMI Maine
NAMI Maryland
NAMI Massachusetts
NAMI Michigan
NAMI Missouri
NAMI Nebraska
NAMI New Hampshire
NAMI North Carolina
NAMI Ohio
NAMI Oklahoma
NAMI Oregon
NAMI San Antonio
NAMI Sioux Falls

NAMI South Dakota
NAMI St. Louis
NAMI Utah
NAMI Virginia
NAMI Wyoming
NAMI-KC
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Social Workers, North Carolina Chapter
National Association of Spine Specialists
National Associations of Social Workers South Dakota
National Catholic Bioethics Center
National Catholic Partnership on Disability
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of Negro Women Inc., Los Angeles View Park Section, Southern
California Area
National Hemophilia Foundation, Idaho Chapter
National Kidney Foundation Serving Ohio
National LGBT Cancer Project
National Minority Quality Forum
National Parkinson Foundation serving Central and Southeast Ohio
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Spasmodic Torticollis Association
NCBio
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Nebraska Kidney Association
Nebraska Podiatric Medical Association
Nebraska Rural Health Association
Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom

Neurologique
Nevada Podiatric Medical Association
New Hampshire Podiatric Medical Association
New Hampshire State Grange
New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology (NJAO)
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society
New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association
New York Podiatric Medical Association
New York State Rheumatology Society
New Zion Community Advocates, Inc.
Norman Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
North Carolina Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Podiatric Medical Association
North Carolina Psychological Association
North Dakota Medical Association
North Dakota Podiatric Medical Association
North Dakota Policy Council
North Idaho AIDS Coalition
Northeast Kidney Foundation
Northern Utah Coalition, Inc
Northwest Urological Society
Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Ohio Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Foot & Ankle Medical Association
Ohio Ophthalmological Society
Ohio Podiatric Medical Association
Ohio State Grange
Ohio State Medical Association
Ohio Veterans United

Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
Oklahoma Bioscience Association
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association
Oklahoma Podiatric Medical Association
Oklahoma Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiology
Oklahoma Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Orthopedic Society
Old North State Medical Society
Oregon Bioscience Association
Oregon Medical Association
Oregon Pediatric Society
Oregon Podiatric Medical Association
Oregon Rheumatology Alliance (ORA)
Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists
Oregon Urological Society
Oregon Urology Institute
Parkinson's Association of San Diego
Partnership for a Drug-Free North Carolina
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
Pennsylvania BIO
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association
Perennial Services Network
PhRMA
Platte Institute for Economic Research
Plaza Community Services
Pocatello Senior Citizen Center
Premier healthcare alliance
Prevent Blindness Iowa

Prevent Blindness Mid-Atlantic
Prevent Blindness Ohio
Prince George's County Medical Society
Publix Northwest
PUENTES New Orleans
Renal Support Network
RetireSafe
Rhode Island Podiatric Medical Association
Rio Grande Foundation
Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association
Rocky Mountain Stroke Center
Rush To Live
S.L.E. Lupus Foundation
SAGE Utah
SC BIO
Senior Citizen's Council of Greater Augusta
Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging
Senior Hospitality Center
Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
South Carolina Medical Association
South Carolina Orthopaedic Association
South Carolina Podiatric Medical Association
South Carolina Urological Association
South Dakota Biotech Association
South Dakota Orthopaedic Society
South Dakota Osteopathic Society
South Dakota Podiatric Medical Association
South Dakota State Medical Association

South Jersey Geriatric Care PC
South Jersey Senior Networking Group
Southeast Georgia Communities Project
Southeastern Medical Device Association (SEMDA)
Southern States Chapter of the American Associates of Clinical Endocrinologists
Southwest Michigan Pharmacist Association
State of Texas Kidney Foundation
Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
Tennessee Association of Health Underwriters
Tennessee Medical Association
Tennessee Men's Health Network
Tennessee Neurosurgical Society
Tennessee Orthopaedic Society
Tennessee Podiatric Medical Association
Tennessee Radiological Society
Tennessee Society of Anesthesiologists
Vietnam Veterans of America, Tennessee State Council
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice
Texas Association of Business (TAB)
Texas BioAlliance
Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (TCCRI)
Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute (THBI)
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Neurological Society
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Podiatric Medical Association
Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition
Texas Urological Society
The AIDS Institute
The Center for Health Care Services
The Jewish Federations of North America
The National Grange

The Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Transplant Survivors Coalition of Florida
Twin Falls Senior Center
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Pain Foundation
UCP of Huntsville & Tennessee Valley, Inc
Utah Advocates
Utah Black Chamber of Commerce
Utah Business Development Association
Utah Podiatric Medical Association
Utah Pride Center
Utah Supports Advocates for Recovery Awareness
Vermont Podiatric Medical Association
Veterans Health Council
VHA Inc.
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Biotechnology Association
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
Visiting Nurses Association of Ohio
Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (WBBA)
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association
Washington State Podiatric Medical Association
Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition
Washington State Urology Society
West Virginia Orthopaedic Society
West Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Wisconsin Hospital Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wisconsin Podiatric Medical Association

Wisdom of Wellness Project

Women Against Prostate Cancer

Women of Faith and Hope, Inc.

Wyoming Epilepsy Association

Wyoming State Grange