



Advocates for Responsible Care

1434 Brook Valley Lane
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

August 12, 2011

The Honorable David Scott
United States House of Representatives
225 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via facsimile: 202-225-4628

Re: Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)

Dear Congressman Scott:

The potential consequences from the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) are numerous. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) should have the IPAB eliminated from its plan because of the potential consequences it would have on senior citizens' healthcare program - Medicare.

As the President of Advocates for Responsible Care, I am deeply concerned about the IPAB's structure and its unprecedented power. The IPAB will consist of 15 presidential appointed individuals whose purpose will be to develop proposals aimed at extending Medicare's solvency and slowing Medicare cost-growth. Less than 50% of this board can come from provider back rounds and cannot be actively practicing their professions. The IPAB recommendations are submitted to Congress for approval. Unless Congress passes alternative savings or votes to override IPAB's recommendations by three-fifths supermajority the board's proposals will automatically become law. The problem with this is that it leaves little recourse in the event IPAB makes a bad decision. IPAB will be making decisions about payment policy in Medicare that will determine whether millions of seniors have access to the care they need. Because of these restrictions, we believe the panel will reduce payments to providers and access to innovative therapies, thus limiting patient access. Seniors are already finding it difficult to find doctors that will take Medicare patients due to previous cuts made to physician's payments. This situation will be exacerbated with any proposed cuts.

Georgia's seniors deserve better than this. I am urging you to consider supporting legislation to repeal the IPAB. It will do much more damage than good. I hope you understand the consequences and will do everything in your power to eliminate the IPAB from the PPACA.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Leone-Glasser, RN, HHC, President
Advocates for Responsible Care

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