



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, **the Alliance supports your legislation, S.J.Res. 16, approving the discontinuation of the process for consideration and automatic implementation of the annual proposal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).**

The Alliance strongly opposes the IPAB or any other board resulting in an inappropriate delegation of Congress' oversight responsibilities. Significant health care decisions must not be made by a group of unelected, unaccountable individuals with little or no clinical expertise or the oversight required to protect access to care for America's seniors. The Alliance is concerned that the IPAB will arbitrarily ratchet down provider reimbursement, without sufficient oversight and without care taken to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive the quality health care that they need and deserve. Further, the Board is required to selectively exempt certain providers from its purview – placing more pressure to cut Medicare reimbursements in areas under its jurisdiction.

We strongly support your legislation and stand ready to work with you toward passage.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

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