



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

April 7, 2011

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator John Cornyn:

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. 668, the *"Health Care Bureaucrats Elimination Act,"* which would remove unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from American seniors' personal health decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) authorized under the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148 and P.L. 111-152).

The Alliance strongly opposes the IPAB or any other board resulting in an inappropriate delegation of Congress' oversight responsibilities. The IPAB will 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.

The Alliance understands and appreciates concerns with the rising costs of health care and the history of the Sustainable Growth Rate formula has shown that budget problems down the road only makes them worse for patients, providers, and taxpayers. However, the process and structure of the IPAB is filled with potential unintended consequences and the IPAB lacks the clinical expertise and the research capacity to examine the national and regional effects of proposed recommendations to ensure patients are not unjustifiably impacted.

Again, we are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

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

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