

Repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)

- Created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), IPAB is a government board whose sole job is to cut Medicare spending. H.R. 351/S.351 would repeal this section of PPACA.
- Members of Congress play an essential role in shaping health policies that best meet the needs of their communities and constituents to ensure that the health care system is equipped to care for diverse populations across the country.
- Under IPAB, major health policy decisions will rest in the hands of 15 unelected and largely unaccountable individuals.
- Fewer than half of IPAB members can be health care providers, and none will be permitted to be practicing physicians or be otherwise employed.
- IPAB not only severely limits Congressional authority, it eliminates the transparency of hearings, debate and any meaningful opportunity for stakeholder input.
- IPAB will be required to recommend cuts based on unrealistic spending targets starting in 2014.
- We have all witnessed the problems with the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. We cannot afford for IPAB to become the next SGR.
- IPAB cuts will disproportionately fall on physicians, as providers representing 37 percent of all Medicare payments -- including hospitals and hospice care -- are exempt from IPAB cuts until 2020.
- As a result of the already unreasonably low Medicare payments for anesthesia services -- “the 33% problem” - IPAB cuts could disproportionately impact anesthesiologists specifically. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Medicare’s anesthesia payment rates are 33% of commercial providers’ payment rates. Studies show Medicare payment rates for other physician services are between 75-80% of what commercial insurers pay.
- Physicians already face cuts over the next decade. IPAB will cut payments only, doing nothing to encourage greater access and quality care for our health care dollars.
- Congress should act now to repeal IPAB.