November 29, 2016

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations – representing Medicare beneficiaries and patients, all sectors of the healthcare industry as well as employers and other purchasers of health care – believe strongly that the Medicare program must protect patient access to quality healthcare. The Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), not only poses a threat to that access but also, once activated, will shift healthcare costs to consumers in the private sector and infringe upon the decisionmaking responsibilities and prerogatives of the Congress. We request your support to repeal IPAB.

IPAB, as constructed under PPACA, is a board comprised of Presidential appointees who will be charged with making recommendations to cut Medicare expenditures if spending growth reaches an arbitrary level. Once the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) implements an IPAB recommendation, that action is not subject to administrative or judicial review. As constructed, IPAB is granted unprecedented powers – even the ability to change laws previously enacted by Congress – with virtually no oversight.

The potential impact of this board causes deep concern among our organizations and the millions of Americans we represent. IPAB proponents suggest that the board will be an asset in developing needed healthcare delivery reforms. That goal, however, is not realistically achievable. The law requires IPAB to achieve scoreable savings within a one-year time period. Thus, instead of pursuing long-term reforms that may not achieve immediate savings, IPAB is more likely to consider short-term savings in the form of payment cuts for healthcare providers. This was, in fact, the conclusion of the Congressional Budget Office, which stated that IPAB is most likely to focus on payment rates or methodologies for services provided by non-exempt providers.

This would be devastating for patients, affecting access to care and innovative therapies. Already, the number of physicians unable to accept new Medicare patients due to low reimbursement rates has been increasing over the past several years. IPAB-generated payment reductions would only increase the access difficulties faced by too many Medicare beneficiaries. Furthermore, payment reductions to Medicare providers will almost certainly result in a shifting of health costs to employers and consumers in the private sector.

Under IPAB's provisions, the responsibility for enacting healthcare system changes of this magnitude would be transferred from the legislative branch to the executive. More specifically, an unelected board without adequate oversight or accountability would be taking actions historically reserved for the public's elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate. This is an unacceptable decisionmaking process for a program that millions of our nation's seniors and individuals with disabilities rely upon.

Moreover, if IPAB does not act within the law's required timeframe or if IPAB members are not appointed by the President or confirmed by the Senate, the law transfers IPAB's responsibilities solely to the HHS Secretary. This places an enormous degree of power in the hands of one unelected individual.

We strongly support bringing greater cost-efficiency to the Medicare program. We also advocate continuing efforts to improve the quality of care delivered to Medicare beneficiaries.

The Independent Payment Advisory Board will achieve neither of these objectives and will only weaken, not strengthen, a program critical to the health and well-being of current and future beneficiaries. We urge Congress to eliminate the IPAB provision.

Sincerely,

1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition 60 Plus Alabama 60 Plus Association A Partnership of Diabetics Abbott Actelion Pharmaceuticals Action CF ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+) AdvaMed - the Advanced Medical Technology Association Advocacy Council of ACAAI Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC) AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families AIDS Community Research Initiative of America AIDS CT **AIDS Foundation of Chicago** AIDS Outreach Montana **AIDS Resource Center Ohio** AIDS Response Seacoast AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region Alabama ACEP Alabama Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers Alabama Council of Community Mental Health Boards Alabama Hospital Association Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network Alabama Podiatric Medical Association Alabama Society for Clinical Social Work Alabama Society for the Rheumatic Diseases Alaska ACEP Alaska Rheumatology Alliance Alaska State Medical Association Alliance for Patient Access Alliance of Specialty Medicine Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin Alzheimer's Arkansas Alzheimer's Association - Capital of Texas Chapter Alzheimer's Texas American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology American Academy of Dermatology Association American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery American Academy of Neurology American Academy of Ophthalmology American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation American Association for Hand Surgery American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

American Association of Clinical Urologists American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons American Association of Neurological Surgeons American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association American Behcet's Disease Association American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology American College of Cardiology American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) American College of Mohs Surgery American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians American College of Osteopathic Surgeons American College of Radiology American College of Rheumatology American College of Surgeons American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Oklahoma Chapter American Gastroenterological Association American Kidney Fund American Liver Foundation American Liver Foundation Pacific Coast Division American Medical Association American Military Society American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics American Osteopathic Association American Osteopathic College of Rheumatology American Physical Therapy Association American Podiatric Medical Association American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association American Society for Mohs Surgery American Society for Surgery of the Hand American Society of Anesthesiologists American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery American Society of Echocardiography American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators American Society of Plastic Surgeons American Spinal Injury Association American Urological Association Amgen AMN Healthcare Arizona Bioindustry Association (AZBio) Arizona College of Emergency Physicians Arizona Radiological Society Arizona United Rheumatology Alliance Arizona Urological Society Arkansas Chapter ACEP Arkansas Orthopaedic Society

Arkansas Podiatric Medical Association Arkansas Rheumatology Association Arthritis Foundation Arthritis Foundation South Central Region Arthroscopy Association of North America Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter Austin Radiological Association **BEACON - Biomedical Engineering Alliance & Consortium Bingham County Senior Center** Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association **BioBuzz Workforce Foundation** Biocom BioFlorida BIOForward **BioHouston** BioKansas BioNJ **BioNorthTX** BioOhio **Bioscience Association of West Virginia** Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) BioUtah Birmingham Neurosurgery and Spine Group, PC Brain Injury Association of Nebraska California ACEP California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce California Association of Health Facilities California Association of Neurological Surgeons, Inc California Health Collaborative California Hepatitis C Task Force California Life Sciences Association - CLSA California Medical Association California Orthopaedic Association California Podiatric Medical Association California Rheumatology Alliance California Senior Advocates League California Society for Cardiac Rehabilitation California Urological Association Cambridge Chamber of Commerce Campbell Clinic Center for Health Care Services Center for Healthcare Innovation Center of Health Engagement Central Florida Behavioral Health Network Centro de mi Salud **Cervical Spine Research Society** Charleston Parkinson's Support Group Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society Chemed Corporation **Citrus Council NKFF**

City of New Orleans **Cleveland Clinic CNY HIV Care Network** COAAA Coalition of Asian-American IPA Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) **Colon Cancer Alliance** Colorado BioScience Association Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition Colorado Gerontological Society Colorado Medical Society Colorado Podiatric Medical Association Colorado Rheumatology Association Colorado's Insurance Consultant, LLC Communicating for America, Inc. Community Access National Network (CANN) **Community Health Action Network** Community Health Charities of Nebraska Community Liver Alliance **Community Oncology Alliance** Congress of Neurological Surgeons Connecticut Orthopaedic Society **Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association** Council for Affordable Health Coverage Council of State Neurosurgical Societies CPEM, Inc Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Georgia Chapter CSRA Area Agency on Aging Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families **Delaware HIV Consortium** Dia de la Mujer Latina Easter Seals Easter Seals Central and Southeast Ohio Inc. Easter Seals Central Texas Easter Seals Iowa Easter Seals Massachusetts Easter Seals Nebraska Easter Seals North Georgia Easter Seals of Southeastern PA Eastern Orthopaedic Association **EDSers United Foundation** Eisai Inc. Eli Lilly and Company ELLAS **Emergency Department Practice Management Association Endometriosis Association Enterprise Family Healthcare** Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend **Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois** Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County

Epilepsy Foundation of Western Wisconsin Familia Unida Living with MS FCEP Florida College of Emergency Physicians Federation of American Hospitals Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health ~ CO Chapter First Step House Fleet Reserve Association Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society Florida Neurosurgical Society Florida Orthopaedic Society Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Florida Partners in Crisis Florida Podiatric Medical Association Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Florida Society of Rheumatology Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel Geaux Group Georgia Bio Georgia College of Emergency Physicians Georgia Commission on Women Georgia Neurosurgical Society Georgia Orthopaedic Society Georgia Osteoporosis Initiative Georgia Podiatric Medical Association Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology Georgia Society of Dermatology and Dermatological Surgery Georgia Society of Rheumatology Georgia Women's Institute **Global Genes Global Healthy Living Foundation Global Liver Institute** Granite State Taxpayers Greater North Dakota Chamber Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce H.E.A.L.S of the South (Hepatitis Education, Awareness and Liver Support) Hawaii ACEP Hawaii Independent Physicians Association Hawaii Medical Association Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association Healthcare Innovation Exchange HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ) Healthcare Leadership Council **HealthHIV** Healthy African American Families Hispanic CREO Home Care Association of Washington Hopkins County Memorial Hospital ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network Idaho Medical Association Idaho State Dental Association

Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization Illinois College of Emergency Physicians Illinois Manufacturers' Association Illinois Neurological Institute Illinois Podiatric Medical Association Illinois State Ambulance Association Illinois State Medical Society INACEP Independent Medical Providers Action Council Indiana Health Industry Forum Indiana Medical Device Manufacturers Council Indiana Podiatric Medical Association Indiana State Medical Association Indiana University Health, Inc. Infectious Diseases Society of America **Insight Human Services** Integral Rheumatology and Immunology Specialists (IRIS) International Foundation for Autoimmune Arthritis International Institute of Human Empowerment International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery Iowa ACEP Iowa Biotechnology Association Iowa Orthopaedic Society Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association Iowa Podiatric Medical Society Iowa State Grange J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society JobKeeper Alliance Johnson & Johnson Julian CNA Training School Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine Kansas Orthopaedic Society Kansas Podiatric Medical Association Kansas Rheumatology Alliance Kansas Urological Association Kentuckiana Rheumatology Alliance Kentucky ACEP Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Kentucky Life Sciences Council Kentucky Medical Association Kentucky Psychiatric Medical Association Kidney Cancer Association **Kidney Care Partners** Latin American Chamber of Commerce Latino Commission on AIDS Latino Diabetes Association Licensed Professional Counselors Association Life Science Tennessee Life Sciences Greenhouse of Central PA Life Sciences Pennsylvania Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society

Louisiana Alumni, Sigma Kappa GNO Louisiana Association of Neurological Surgeons Louisiana Liberty 64 Louisiana Lifespan Respite Coalition Louisiana Orthopaedic Association Louisiana Podiatric Medical Association Louisiana Womens' Network Lower New York Chapter, The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Lupus Alliance of Long Island/Queens Lupus Alliance of Upstate New York Lupus and Allied Diseases Association Lupus Foundation New England Lupus Foundation of America, DC/MD/VA Chapter Lupus Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. Lupus Foundation of Colorado Lupus Foundation of Florida, Inc. Lupus Foundation of Northern California Lupus Foundation of PA Lupus Foundation of Southern California Lupus LA Lupus Society of Illinois MA Health Council MACEP - Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians Maine ACEP Malecare Cancer Support Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Manufacture Alabama Maryland Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians Maryland Orthopaedic Association Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc. Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC) Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire Rheumatology Association MassBio Maxim Healthcare Services Maxima Home Health LLC MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society Medical Allev Medical Association of Georgia Medical Association of the State of Alabama Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA) Medical News Medical Oncology Association of Southern California Medical Society of the State of New York Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) MedTech Association MemorialCare Health System Men's Health Network Mental Health America of Montana Mental Health Systems Merck

Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce Michigan Association of Neurological Surgeons Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians Michigan Biosciences Industry Association - MichBio Michigan Chamber of Commerce Michigan College of Emergency Physicians Michigan Lupus Foundation Michigan Orthopaedic Society Michigan Osteopathic Association Michigan Rheumatism Society Minnesota Chapter ACEP Minnesota Medical Association Minnesota Neurosurgical Society Minnesota Orthopaedic Society Minnesota State Grange Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association Mississippi State Medical Association Missouri Ambulance Association Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics Missouri Biotechnology Association Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry **Missouri Hospital Association** Missouri State Medical Association Missouri Urological Society MoCEP - Missouri College of Emergency Physicians Montana ACEP Montana BioScience Alliance Montana Chamber of Commerce Montana Medical Association Montana Orthopedic Society Multiple Sclerosis Resources of Central New York, Inc. Musculoskeletal Tumor Society NAMI - Sheridan NAMI Alabama NAMI Buffalo & Erie County NAMI Clackamas NAMI Florida NAMI Greater Des Moines NAMI Indiana NAMI Iowa NAMI Kansas NAMI Knox Licking County Ohio NAMI Maine NAMI Maryland NAMI Mass NAMI Minnesota NAMI Montana NAMI Nebraska NAMI New Mexico NAMI Northern Nevada NAMI Ohio

NAMI Rochester NAMI Sioux Falls NAMI Skagit NAMI Stark County NAMI Upper Valley Idaho NAMI Virginia NAMI Washington NASW Texas Chapter National Alliance on Mental Illness National Alliance on Mental Illness of Central Suffolk National Alliance on Mental Illness of Park County, WY National Association for Home Care & Hospice National Association for Uniformed Services National Association of Hepatitis Task Forces National Association of Manufacturers National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) National Association of Social Workers - NC Chapter National Association of Social Workers - Virginia Chapter National Association of Spine Specialists National Center for Policy Analysis National Coalition for LGBT Health National Council for Behavioral Health National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association National Grange National Hispanic Medical Association National Minority Quality Forum National Psoriasis Foundation National Retail Federation National Rural Health Association National Spasmodic Torticollis Association NCCEP North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Nebraska Medical Association Nebraska Rural Health Association Nebraska State Grange Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom **Neuro Network Partners** Neurofibromatosis, Inc. Mid-Atlantic Neurosurgical Society of Kentucky Nevada Chapter ACEP Nevada Orthopaedic Society New England Biotech Association New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. New Jersey Chapter ACEP New Jersey Mayors Committee on Life Science New Jersey Orthopaedic Society New Jersey Rheumatology Association New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (NMBio) New Mexico Chapter ACEP New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association New York ACEP

New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons New York State Neurological Society New York State Rheumatology Society New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc. New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc. New York State Urological Society NHACEP North Carolina Biosciences Organization North Carolina Chamber North Carolina Foot & Ankle Society North Carolina Psychological Association North Carolina Rheumatology Association North Dakota Chapter ACEP North Dakota Medical Association North Dakota Podiatric Medical Association North Macon Family Healthcare Associates Northeast Kidney Foundation Northern Utah Coalition, Inc. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation Occasional Riot Ogden Branch of the NAACP Ohio ACEP Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities **Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services** Ohio Association of Rheumatology Ohio Chamber of Commerce Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association **Ohio Jewish Communities** Ohio Orthopaedic Society Ohio Osteopathic Association Ohio State Grange Ohio Veterans United **OKBio Oklahoma ACEP Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists Oklahoma Osteopathic Association** Oklahoma Podiatric Medical Association, Inc. **Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiologists** Oklahoma Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Oklahoma State Medical Association ONEgeneration Oregon Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians Oregon Medical Association **Oregon Neurosurgical Society Oregon Podiatric Medical Association Oregon Rheumatology Alliance Oregon Urological Society Orthopaedic Research Society** Orthopaedic Society of Oklahoma Orthopaedic Trauma Association

Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California PA Prostate Cancer Coalition Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society Pennsylvania State Grange Perennial Services Network Pfizer Philadelphia Rheumatism Society PhRMA Plaza Community Services Premier healthcare alliance Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County, Inc. Prevent Blindness Iowa Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate Progressive Leaders of Louisiana **Prostate Health Education Network** Radiology Associates of Macon **Rainy Day Patriots Respiratory Health Association** RetireSafe Rheumatism Society of the District of Columbia Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana Rheumatology Association of Iowa Rheumatology Association of Minnesota and the Dakotas Rheumatology Association of Nevada Rheumatology Society of North Texas Rhode Island Chapter ACEP Rhode Island Medical Society Rhode Island Tech Collective Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association **RIPMA Rocky Mountain Stroke Center RTI** Surgical Inc. Rush To Live SAGE Utah Salud U.S.A. San Diego County Podiatric Medical Association Sanofi US SC Podiatric Medical Association (SCPMA) Scoliosis Research Society Sea Island Pediatrics Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging Seniors Golden Hammer Seniors Hospitality Center / Bonners Ferry Senior Center Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council Smile Community Action Partnership

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Society for Vascular Surgery Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons Society of Urologic Oncology Society of Urology Chairs and Program Directors Solidarity Project Advocacy Center South Carolina BIO South Carolina Hospital Association South Carolina Medical Association South Carolina Medical Group Management Association (SCMGMA) South Carolina Nurses Association South Carolina Orthopaedic Association South Carolina Rheumatism Society South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology South Carolina Urological Association South Dakota Biotech South Dakota State Medical Association South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society South Florida Cancer Association Southern Orthopaedic Association State Chamber of Oklahoma State of Texas Association of Rheumatologists State of Texas Kidney Foundation Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii StopAfib.org Suicide Awareness Voices of Education Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc. Survivors Cancer Action Network Takeda Pharmaceuticals, USA Inc. TCEP Texas College of Emergency Physicians Tech Council of Maryland Tennessee Association of Long Term Care Physicians **Tennessee Geriatrics Society** Tennessee Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders Foundation Tennessee Medical Association Tennessee Orthopaedic Society Tennessee Rheumatology Society Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice **Texas Association of Business Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons Texas BioAlliance** Texas Health Resources **Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute Texas Life-Sciences Collaboration Center Texas Medical Association Texas Neurological Society Texas Nurse Practitioners** Texas Orthopaedic Association **Texas Osteopathic Medical Association** Texas Pain Society **Texas Radiological Society**

Texas State Grange The AIDS Institute The Arc in Hawaii The Benefits Consultancy The Jewish Federations of North America The Marilyn Fagan Ovarian Cancer Patient Advocacy Program (ICAN-Hawaii) The Meeting Group, Inc. The National Association of Catholic Nurses - U.S.A. The National Catholic Bioethics Center The Surgery Center of Huntsville The US Oncology Network The Wall Las Memorias Project Twin Falls Senior Center U.S. Chamber of Commerce U.S. Pain Foundation Union Pacific Railroad Employees Health Systems Utah Advocates Utah Medical Association Utah Podiatric Medical Association Utah Pride Center Utah State Orthopedic Society Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons, Inc. Veterans Health Council Vietnam Veterans of America Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota Virginia Bio Virginia Chamber of Commerce Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Virginia Podiatric Medical Association Visiting Nurse Association Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio **VITAS Healthcare** Vizient, Inc. Washington ACEP Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association Washington Rheumatology Alliance Washington Rural Health Association Washington State Medical Association Washington State Orthopaedic Association Washington State Podiatric Medical Association Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition Washington State Urology Society Wellness Station West Virginia Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. West Virginia Orthopaedic Society West Virginia State Rheumatology Society Western Orthopaedic Association Western Section of the American Urological Association Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons (WAOPS)

Wisconsin Hospital Association Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Wisconsin Medical Society Wisconsin Rheumatology Association Wisconsin State Grange Wound Care Clinic - ESU WPMA - Wisconsin Podiatric Medical Association Wyoming Epilepsy Association Wyoming Medical Society ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer