



Illinois State Medical Society

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Rodney Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
1740 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the 11,000 member physicians of the Illinois State Medical Society, I am writing to you to express the deep concern of Illinois' physician community that the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) will severely limit Medicare beneficiaries' access to care and inappropriately interfere with the physician-patient relationship. As you know, the *Affordable Care Act* created the IPAB, a board appointed by the President and empowered to make recommendations to cut spending in Medicare if its growth reaches certain arbitrary levels.

Illinois physicians believe that giving an un-elected body the authority to make decisions that will directly impact the health care we provide to our patients is a dangerous step to take. The bulk of any recommended spending reductions will most likely come in the form of payment cuts to Medicare providers, placing significant pressure on physicians to make treatment decisions on the basis of cost and degrading patients' ability to make their own health care decisions. We are also disturbed by the unprecedented combination of sweeping power and insufficient oversight that characterizes the IPAB; that the law specifically prohibits administrative or judicial review of the Secretary's implementation of IPAB recommendations is particularly worrisome.

We are grateful for your action in co-sponsoring legislation to repeal the IPAB, and we urge you to keep up the fight. Protecting access to Medicare for our seniors is among our top priorities, and we are encouraged to know that it is yours as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Malkin, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Illinois State Medical Society

cc: Eldon A. Trame, M.D.
William A. McDade, M.D.
Alexander R. Lerner