



February 14, 2011

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Roe:

The American College of Rheumatology commends you for introducing the *Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011* (H.R. 452). Your legislation which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board established in the Affordable Care Act is a significant step to repairing flawed areas of the new law.

As a physician, you are aware that all doctors have faced repeated cuts to Medicare due to the flawed sustainable growth rate formula. This advisory board is yet another instance where bureaucrats and government obstruct the critical decisions made within the physician-patient relationship.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to make necessary improvements to the Affordable Care Act to ensure that physicians can focus on providing high quality health care to their patients. We hope that Congress recognizes the burden of the IPAB and acts swiftly to repeal the IPAB.

Please contact ACR Director of Government Affairs Aiken Hackett via e-mail at ahackett@rheumatology.org or phone at (404) 633-3777 if you have any specific questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Laing, MD
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
American College of Rheumatology