



THE ALLIANCE FOR PATIENT ACCESS

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the physician membership of the Alliance for Patient Access, I am writing to express concern regarding the provisions of the Senate passed version of healthcare reform legislation that creates the Independent Payment Advisor Board (IPAB). Eliminating the IPAB in the final legislation and identifying an alternative manner to achieve the objective of realizing healthcare costs savings would be in the best interests of Medicare patients.

As physicians who advocate on behalf of patient access to care, it particularly concerns AfPA's membership that the IPAB recommendations would in effect supplant the judgment of our elected representatives in Congress. IPAB would make it far more difficult for physicians, patients and other Medicare advocates to make their case on behalf of patient access to the course of care prescribed by physicians.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that Congress reject the creation of the IPAB and continue to retain its authority over the decisions that will shape the future of Medicare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Kennedy', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Kennedy
Director
AfPA