

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORS TO DECEMBER 17TH LETTER

Dear Madam Speaker:

In July, 75 members of the U.S. House of Representatives wrote to express strong opposition to proposals, such as the “Independent Medicare Advisory Council (IMAC) Act of 2009” and the “Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) Reform Act of 2009” (H.R. 2718, S. 1110, S. 1380), that would divest Congress of its authority for Medicare payment policy and place this responsibility in an executive branch commission or board. This letter clearly stated opposition to the inclusion of these or any other similar proposals in health reform or any other legislation, but with recent developments, we, the undersigned members, believe it is imperative to restate our strong opposition to any proposal or legislation that would place authority for Medicare payment policy in an unelected, executive branch commission or board.

Consistent with the July letter, on November 7, 2009, the House passed the “Affordable Health Care for America Act” (H.R. 3962) did not include provisions to create an unelected Medicare board. Yet, at present, the Senate is considering the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009,” which includes provisions to create an “Independent Medicare Advisory Board” (IMAB) that would effectively end Congress’s authority over Medicare payment policy.

To create an unelected, unaccountable Medicare commission as envisioned in the Senate’s IMAB proposal, or the IPAB proposal, would end Congress’s ability to shape Medicare to provide the best policies for beneficiaries in our communities around the country. Through the legislative process, and from Medicare’s beginning, Members have been able to represent the needs of their communities by improving benefits for seniors and the disabled, affecting policies that fill the health care workforce pipeline, and ensuring that hospitals are equipped to care for diverse populations across our individual districts. Such a responsibility is one that is not taken, nor should be given away, lightly.

These proposals would severely limit Congressional oversight of the Medicare program, and to place this authority within the executive branch, without Congressional oversight or judicial review, would eliminate the transparency of Congressional hearings and debate. Without the open and transparent legislative process, Medicare beneficiaries and the range of providers who care for them would be greatly limited in their ability to help develop and implement new policies that improve the health care of our nation's seniors. An executive branch Medicare board would also effectively eliminate Congress's ability to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create and implement demonstration and pilot projects designed to evaluate new and advanced policies such as home care for the elderly, the patient-centered medical home, new less invasive surgical procedures, collaborative efforts between hospitals and physicians, and programs designed to eliminate fraud and abuse.

The creation of a Medicare board would also effectively eliminate state and community input into the Medicare program, removing the ability to develop and implement policies expressly applicable to different patient populations. Instead, national policies that would flow from such a board would ignore the significant differences and health care needs of states and communities. Geographic and demographic variances that exist in our nation's health care system and patient populations would be dangerously disregarded. Furthermore, all providers in all states would be required to comply even if these policies were detrimental to the patients they serve. Such a commission could not only threaten the ability of Medicare beneficiaries, but of all Americans, to access the care they need.

Finally, as the people's elected representatives, we must oppose any proposal to create a board that would surrender our legislative authority and responsibility for the Medicare program to unelected, unaccountable officials within the very same branch of government that is charged with implementing the Medicare policies that affect so many Americans. Therefore, we must strongly oppose the creation of IMAB, IMAC, a reconstituted MedPAC or any Medicare board or commission that would undermine our ability to represent the needs of the seniors and disabled in our own communities. Again, we urge you to reject the inclusion of these or any like proposal in health reform or any other legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Souder

Joe E. Senow

Chh Fattel

Bob Goodlatte

Jack Raskap

Corinne Brown

Shelley Moore Capito

T. Hill

Todd R. Platts

Nathan Deal

Glenn Daniel Vrota

Shelley Jackson Lee

Emanuel Cleaver

Quinn Sisk

Rail W. Grijalva

John Boozman

Marcus R. Judge

Christopher Lee

D. Buck

Bill Posey

Ron Paul

JOE Wilson

Vern Buchanan

Rodney Alexander

Charlie J. Mebrson

Thomas Fine

Walter B. Jones

Ann Schulte

Russ Carnahan

Howard Coble

Frank Patton

Judy Ann

Nylea H. Kelley

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2009

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Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

Conrad Shale

Bill King

Mary Lou Mack

Marsha Blackburn

Pat Tiberius

Joe Courtney

Alfred Johnson

Doris O. Matzner

Neil Clauger

Pats Stark

John Lewis

Trig Zj

Jo McFly

Glyson G Schwartz

Jim Beckman

Shelley Berkeley

Joe Buttler Jr.

David P. Roe

Bill Cassidy

Brett Mulholland

Jim McLaughlin

me Rogers (40)

John W. Oliver

Frank Johnson

Linda J. Gray

Sam Lane

~~Eric J. Gray~~

John Fleming

Michael E. Capuano

Yvette D. Clarke

~~John J. Gray~~

Herbert B. Meek

Juan C. Lavin

Alan Grayson

Don Maffei

Wenderson

Michael Uttonde

Edward J. Manning

Laura Richard

Erin L. Enne

Julie Hill

Mary L. Ackerman

John F. Tierney

Pete Sessa

Edwards

Sammy Buyer

Carlton B. Maloney

Genold Nodder

Nida M. Lawry

Don R. R...

Donald M. Payne

Simon P. Gilkey

~~Gregory W. Marks~~

Don R...

Lynn Woodsey

Barnaby North

Ken Albert

Wm. Lacy Clay

Bob Finer

Man...

Bill DeLoach

Steve Isaacs

Bill Paswell Jr



Steve Kagen

Gary Brown-White

SIGNERS OF NO INDEPENDENT MEDICARE BOARD LETTER
 (Names in bold signed second letter)

State	Last Name	First Name
Arizona	Grijalva	Raul
Arkansas	Boozman	John
California	Bilbray	Brian
California	Bono Mack	Mary
California	Calvert	Ken
California	Chu	Judy
California	Davis	Susan
California	Farr	Sam
California	Filner	Bob
California	Honda	Mike
California	Matsui	Doris
California	McNerney	Jerry
California	Richardson	Laura
California	Rohrabacher	Dana
California	Sanchez	Linda
California	Stark	Pete
California	Thompson	Mike
California	Woolsey	Lynn
Connecticut	Courtney	Joe
Florida	Brown-Waite	Gunny
Florida	Grayson	Alan
Florida	Meek	Kendrick
Florida	Buchanon	Vern
Florida	Posey	Bill
Florida	Brown	Corrine
Georgia	Gingrey	Phil
Georgia	Johnson	Hank
Georgia	Lewis	John
Georgia	Price	Tom
Georgia	Deal	Nathan
Illinois	Rush	Bobby
Illinois	Schock	Aaron
Indiana	Buyer	Steve
Indiana	Souder	Mark
Kentucky	Guthrie	Brett
Louisiana	Cassidy	Bill
Louisiana	Fleming	John
Louisiana	Alexander	Rodney
Louisiana	Melancon	Charlie
Massachusetts	Ncal	Richard
Massachusetts	Capuano	Michael
Massachusetts	Delahunt	William
Massachusetts	Frank	Barney
Massachusetts	Lynch	Steve
Massachusetts	Markey	Edward
Massachusetts	McGovern	Jim
Massachusetts	Olver	John
Massachusetts	Tierney	John
Michigan	Rogers	Mike
Missouri	Carnahan	Russ
Missouri	Clay	William Lacy

Missouri	Cleaver	Emanuel
Nevada	Berkley	Shelley
New Jersey	Pascrell	Bill
New Jersey	Payne	Donald
New Jersey	Sires	Albio
New Jersey	Pallone	Frank
New York	Ackerman	Gary
New York	Bishop	Tim
New York	Clarke	Yvette
New York	Crowley	Joseph
New York	Engel	Eliot
New York	Hall	John
New York	Hinchey	Maurice
New York	Israel	Steve
New York	Lowey	Nita
New York	Maffei	Daniel
New York	Maloney	Carolyn
New York	Massa	Eric
New York	Meeks	Gregory
New York	Nadler	Jerrold
New York	Towns	Edolphus
New York	Serrano	Jose
New York	Lee	Chris
New York	Velázquez	Nydia
North Carolina	Butterfield	G.K.
North Carolina	Jones	Walter
North Carolina	Coble	Howard
Ohio	Tiberi	Patrick
Ohio	Fudge	Marcia
Pennsylvania	Schwartz	Allyson
Pennsylvania	Platts	Todd Russell
Pennsylvania	Holden	Tim
Pennsylvania	Chaka	Fattah
South Carolina	Wilson	Joe
Tennessee	Blackburn	Marsha
Tennessee	Roe	Phil
Texas	Burgess	Michael
Texas	Green	Gene
Texas	Sessions	Pete
Texas	Paul	Ron
Texas	Jackson Lee	Sheifa
Virginia	Christensen	Donna
Virginia	Goodlatte	Bob
Washington	McDermott	Jim
Washington	Reichert	Dave
Washington, DC	Holmes Norton	Eleanor
West Virginia	Rahall	Nick
West Virginia	Capito	Shelley Moore
Wisconsin	Kagen	Steve