

KEY VOTE ALERT!

November 2, 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports H.R. 849, the “Protecting Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act of 2017,” which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). **The Chamber may consider votes on, or in relation to, H.R. 849 in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.**

The IPAB is a commission with the unprecedented authority to make recommendations to cut Medicare spending by reducing reimbursement rates if the growth rate of spending exceeds the target rate. If Congress does not implement spending cuts equal to the amount recommended by the IPAB, the IPAB’s recommendations automatically take effect with no administrative or judicial review.

In addition to setting a dangerous precedent for superseding the conventional legislative process, the IPAB decisions would potentially lead to arbitrary cuts in the Medicare program. If reimbursement rates to Medicare providers are inadequate, this would shift costs onto private payers and consumers while also limiting patient access to care and innovative therapies.

Instead of focusing on improving healthcare and implementing delivery system reforms to address cost and quality issues in healthcare, the IPAB’s likely focus on simply reducing provider payment rates would preclude a constructive dialogue about Medicare modernization and meaningful spending reform.

The Chamber applauds efforts to repeal the IPAB and urges the House of Representatives to approve this legislation.

Sincerely,



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