



**American Hospital
Association**

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February 25, 2013

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our nearly 40,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to express our support for the *Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act* (S. 351), legislation to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) created by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.

America's hospitals support the repeal of IPAB because its existence permanently removes Congress from the process of making decisions regarding Medicare payment, and threatens the important dialogue between hospitals and their elected officials about how hospitals can continue to provide the highest quality care to their patients and communities. Furthermore, any savings achieved through IPAB would come directly from providers, as IPAB is precluded from recommending structural changes to the Medicare program. This shortsighted approach ensures deeper cuts to Medicare provider payments, which already fall short of covering the cost of care.

As you know, IPAB commissioners will be appointed by the president and empowered to establish reimbursement rates for the Medicare program. Although hospitals will not be subject to IPAB decisions until 2020, we are deeply concerned that removing elected officials from the decision-making process could result in even deeper cuts to the Medicare program in the future.

Again, we are pleased to support this legislation and appreciate your continued leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve passage of this legislation in a manner that protects hospitals from any additional cuts.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

