



American Hospital
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March 4, 2015

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

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our nearly 43,000 individual members, I am pleased to express our support for S. 141, the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015, which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

As you are aware, IPAB is a commission appointed by the president and empowered to establish reimbursement rates for the Medicare program. America's hospitals support the repeal of IPAB, which was created by the Affordable Care Act, because its existence permanently removes Congress from the decision-making process on Medicare policy. Further, IPAB threatens the long-time, open and important dialogue between hospital leaders and their elected officials regarding the needs of local hospitals, the patients they serve and how to provide the highest quality of care to patients and communities.

Already, America's hospitals are reimbursed less than the cost of treating Medicare patients. 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 and unsustainable cuts to the Medicare program in the future.

We are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

