

HEARING ADVISORY

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Chairman Herger Announces Hearing on the Independent Payment Advisory Board

House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Wally Herger (R-CA) today announced that the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing to examine how the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) will impact the Medicare program, its beneficiaries, and health care providers. **The hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, in 1100 Longworth House Office Building, beginning at 10:00 A.M.**

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Herger stated, **“One of Congress’ most important responsibilities is to oversee the Medicare program and protect its beneficiaries. When Democrats created this panel, they chose to empower unelected bureaucrats at the expense of patients and their doctors. IPAB robs Medicare beneficiaries of their voice and stifles their Constitutionally-mandated representation. Our seniors and those with disabilities deserve more than nameless political appointees who will deny care if they decide it costs too much. This hearing will allow the Subcommittee to fully understand the impact this ill-conceived rationing board will have on Medicare beneficiaries and their health care providers.”**

BACKGROUND:

The health care overhaul created IPAB to “reduce the per capita growth rate in Medicare spending.” This 15-member board, which will consist of unelected, Presidentially-appointed members, will make recommendations as early as January 15, 2014, to cut Medicare spending if the per capita Medicare spending rate is expected to exceed an economic growth rate over a five-year period. IPAB’s recommended Medicare cuts are “fast tracked” in Congress and will go into effect unless Congress amends IPAB’s recommendations with legislation that produces the same level of savings.

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