



June 30, 2015

Dear Congressman:

The Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) is writing to express our gratitude for your support of H.R. 1190, which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) – a central feature of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). It is now urgent that the U.S. Senate acts.

In 2013, TCC joined hundreds of organizations around the nation in calling for the elimination of the IPAB, one of the worst provisions of the PPACA.

Tasked with the responsibility of recommending cost-saving Medicare reforms to Congress, the 15-member unelected board has the power to implement its recommendations even without Congress's approval. Former Obama administration official Peter Orszag has publicly stated that IPAB's authority was deliberately set up as a way to "counter the gridlock of our political institutions by making them a little less democratic." Yet, that is precisely the problem.

Former Senator Tom Coburn and Congressman Phil Roe (both physicians), writing late last year in the *Wall Street Journal*, got to the heart of the matter: "Why is this board dangerous? Because there is nothing "advisory" about its vast powers. IPAB's mandate is to deliver on one of ObamaCare's central promises: Medicare cost-containment. The law gives this board sweeping authority to do so, with virtually no constraints."

Dissatisfaction and distrust of the IPAB is a bipartisan issue outside of the White House, and political figures as diverse ideologically as former Governors Sarah Palin and Howard Dean agree that it should be repealed. Indeed, Howard Dean explained his thoughts on the IPAB in a *Wall Street Journal* commentary in July 2013:

One major problem is the so-called Independent Payment Advisory Board. The IPAB is essentially a health-care rationing body. By setting doctor reimbursement rates for Medicare and determining which procedures and drugs will be covered and at what price, the IPAB will be able to stop certain treatments its members do not favor by simply setting rates to levels where no doctor or hospital will perform them.

There does have to be control of costs in our health-care system. However, rate setting—the essential mechanism of the IPAB—has a 40-year track record of failure.... getting rid of the IPAB is something Democrats and Republicans ought to agree on.

H.R. 1190 advances of the cause of health care freedom and liberty from an unaccountable bureaucracy. Thank you for your service, and we will encourage our Senators to take up this cause as well.

Sincerely,



Senator Brian Birdwell



Senator Donna Campbell



Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Don Huffines



Senator Van Taylor



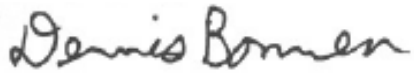
Representative Rodney Anderson



Representative Cecil Bell Jr.



Representative Dwayne Bohac



Representative Dennis Bonnen



Representative Greg Bonnen



Representative Cindy Burkett



Representative Giovanni Capriglione



Representative Travis Clardy



Representative Byron Cook



Representative Tony Dale



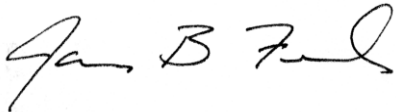
Representative Gary Elkins



Representative Wayne Faircloth



Representative Dan Flynn



Representative James Frank



Representative Jeff Leach



Representative Phil King



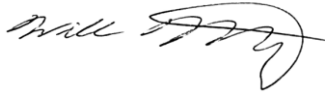
Representative Linda Koop



Representative Matt Krause



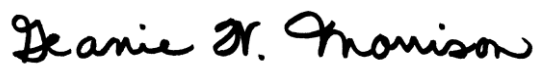
Representative Jodie Laubenberg



Representative Will Metcalf



Representative Rick Miller



Representative Geanie Morrison



Representative Jim Murphy



Representative Andrew Murr



Representative Chris Paddie



Representative Tan Parker



Representative Dennis Paul



Representative Larry Phillips



Representative Debbie Riddle




Representative Matt Rinaldi



Representative Mike Schofield



Representative Matt Shaheen



Representative Kenneth Sheets



Representative Ron Simmons



Representative Stuart Spitzer



Representative Drew Springer



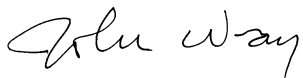
Representative Ed Thompson



Representative James White



Representative Paul Workman



Representative John Wray