



National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

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March 9, 2015

The Honorable Phil Roe
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Linda Sánchez
US House of Representatives
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Roe and Sánchez:

The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) is pleased to support H.R. 1190, the bipartisan Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act, which would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) created under the Affordable Care Act. We thank you for sponsoring this important legislation.

NANASP supports H.R. 1190 because throughout the 50-year history of Medicare, decisions about Medicare spending and coverage have been the responsibility of Congress. This responsibility should not be abdicated to an unelected and unaccountable board, which would remove decisions about Medicare from beneficiaries and their elected legislators. This board could make irreversible decisions affecting access and quality of care for current and future older adults. While NANASP is sensitive to the need to control Medicare costs, we believe that IPAB is the wrong solution.

Further, since healthcare spending has gone down in recent years, IPAB is unnecessary. According to *The Economist*, annual spending per Medicare beneficiary has fallen in real terms from \$12,000 in 2011 to an estimated \$11,200 in 2014, and the Congressional Budget Office projects that Medicare spending per head will be no higher in 2020 than it is now.

As a 1,100-member nonpartisan, nonprofit, membership organization for national advocates for senior health and wellbeing, NANASP's members are concerned about Medicare preservation. NANASP's members, as individuals, agencies and organizations, represent a diverse coalition of those interested in senior nutrition and other programs that enhance the life quality of older Americans, including Medicare.

NANASP looks forward to continuing to work with you on H.R. 1190 throughout the legislative process. We appreciate your strong leadership and your dedication to seniors' issues.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Blancato
Executive Director
NANASP