



Gerald W. McEntee
President

Lee A. Saunders
Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents

Ken Allen
Portland, OR

Henry L. Bayer
Chicago, IL

George Boncoraglio
New York, NY

Anthony Caso
Boston, MA

Greg Devereux
Olympia, WA

Danny Donohue
Albany, NY

David R. Fillman
Harrisburg, PA

Michael Fox
Harrisburg, PA

Albert Garrett
Detroit, MI

Raglan George Jr.
New York, NY

Sherryl A. Gordon
Trenton, NJ

Lakasha Harrison
Oakland, CA

Danny J. Homan
Des Moines, IA

Salvatore Luciano
New Britain, CT

John A. Lyall
Worthington, OH

Roberta Lynch
Chicago, IL

Glenard S. Middleton Sr.
Baltimore, MD

Gary Mitchell
Madison, WI

Douglas Moore Jr.
San Diego, CA

Henry Nicholas
Philadelphia, PA

Eddie L. Parks
Westerville, OH

Randy Ferreira
Honolulu, HI

George E. Poppyack
Oakland, CA

Greg Powell
Austin, TX

Laura Reyes
San Diego, CA

Lillian Roberts
New York, NY

Eddie Rodriguez
New York, NY

Lawrence A. Roehrig
Lansing, MI

Joseph P. Rugola
Columbus, OH

Kathy J. Sackman
Pomona, CA

Elliot Seide
South St. Paul, MN

Mary E. Sullivan
Albany, NY

Braulio Torres
San Juan, PR

David Warrick
Indianapolis, IN

Jeanette D. Wynn
Tallahassee, FL

899-11
11/11

February 28, 2012

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I write to urge you to oppose H.R. 452 when the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health considers this legislation. The misnamed Medicare Decisions Accountability Act repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) which would recommend policies to Congress to help Medicare provide better care at lower costs by getting rid of waste in the system, incentivizing best practices and prioritizing primary care.

IPAB is specifically prohibited by law from recommending any policies that ration care, increase premiums or cost-sharing, restrict benefits, or modify who is eligible for Medicare.

We are skeptical of claims by many of the proponents of the bill that repeal of IPAB will give beneficiaries more choice and control. Many of the proponents of repealing IPAB voted for turning Medicare over to private insurers and shifting more and more costs onto Medicare beneficiaries. IPAB is a balanced approach to making adjustments in Medicare payment policies throughout the health care system without cutting a single, guaranteed Medicare benefit. Many of the proponents of H.R. 452 would simply dismantle the Affordable Care Act and put private insurers in charge of seniors' health care.

IPAB must be preserved but improvements are possible. Like most legislation, the IPAB provision is not perfect and we are willing to work on thoughtful proposals to improve it. However, repeal will do nothing to improve the quality of Medicare or secure Medicare's financial future.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Legislation

CML:lbm

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687