



Specialty Docs Praise Rep. Roe for His Leadership on Getting 218 Cosponsors for IPAB Repeal and Call on House for an Up or Down Vote.

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(Washington, DC) – The Alliance of Specialty Medicine today praised the diligent work of Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) for reaching the magic number of 218 cosponsors of H.R. 452, his bill to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, also known as IPAB. The specialty physician coalition also called on the House Leadership to bring H.R. 452 to the House floor for a vote.

“We believe IPAB repeal would pass by even more votes than 218,” said Alex Valadka, a neurosurgeon from Austin, TX and spokesperson for the Alliance. “The Alliance has been working the halls of Congress on IPAB repeal since the health reform bill passed and many offices that aren’t on the cosponsor list have told us they would support H.R. 452 in a clean up or down vote.”

The Alliance strongly opposes the IPAB or any other board resulting in an inappropriate delegation of Congress’ oversight responsibilities. The IPAB will arbitrarily ratchet down provider reimbursement, without sufficient oversight and without care taken to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive the quality healthcare that they need and deserve. Further, the Board is required to selectively exempt certain providers, including hospitals, from its purview – placing more pressure to cut physician reimbursement.

While the 218th cosponsor was a Republican, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), the 217th was a Democrat, Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT). Other high-profile Democrats on the cosponsor list include Reps. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), a senior Member of the House Budget Committee, Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Shelley Berkley (D-NV) who is running for the US Senate with the support of Majority Leader Harry Reid.

“It has always been clear to us that there is bipartisan support for repealing IPAB and now with the 218 Republican and Democratic cosponsors, it should be clear to everyone else that there is bipartisan *majority* support for repeal in the House,” Valadka said. “A strong, bipartisan vote on H.R. 452 would certainly get the ball rolling on the Senate companion bill and get the President’s attention as well.”