

DAVID P. ROE
1ST DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
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August 28, 2012

Douglas Elmendorf, Ph.D.
Director
Congressional Budget Office
Ford House Office Building
Second and D Streets, SW, Room 402
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Elmendorf:

I am writing to request that the Congressional Budget Office analyze potential Medicare spending reductions that the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) would be responsible for given several non-baseline scenarios.

Specifically, I would like to know what would happen if Congress overrides scheduled reductions to physician payments as a result of the Sustainable Growth Rate mechanism given the following scenarios:

1. Current physician payment rates are extended through 2013 before reverting back to formula.
2. Current physician payment rates are extended through 2013 and 2014 before reverting back to formula.
3. Current physician payment rates are extended indefinitely.

I believe that the current score for the IPAB—established in March 2012 as part of the cost estimate for H.R. 5—likely underestimates the impact that this unaccountable bureaucracy could have on Medicare spending given that Congress has enacted a “doc fix” every year since 2003.

Sincerely,



Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress