



Thomas A. Schatz
President

June 16, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member,

This week, you are scheduled to vote on H.R. 160, the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015, and H.R. 1190, the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015. On behalf of the 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council of Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I ask that you support both of these measures.

H.R. 160 would repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax on total sales for certain medical devices that was created in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Medical device companies have created almost 2 million U.S. jobs, both direct and indirect, and represent one of the nation's biggest exporters with a positive balance of trade of \$42 billion. More than 80 percent of all medical device companies are small businesses with 50 or fewer employees; the excise tax is causing them to lay off workers and forgo hiring new employees. CCAGW members are so concerned that the tax will hurt the industry's ability to create products that will improve their lives that they have sent more than 2,600 letters to Congress asking for the repeal of the medical device tax.

We also ask that you support H.R. 1190, which would repeal the establishment of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), which was included in the ACA. This unelected board will have broad powers over Medicare spending without Congressional oversight or judicial and administrative review.

IPAB will have the power to reduce Medicare spending if it should rise above a targeted growth rate. To accomplish this objective, the board will decide how much healthcare providers will be paid. While the ACA specifically states the board cannot "ration" care, that is a distinction without a difference. If a physician must reduce the number of Medicare patients he or she treats because of reduced rates, seniors by default will have their care rationed. If Congress should disagree with IPAB's plan, there is a limited amount of time to come up with a different plan that cuts the same amount from Medicare. If Congress fails to produce an alternative plan that gets signed into law, IPAB's proposal goes into effect.

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I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 160 and H.R. 1190. It is imperative to stop the ongoing harm to our nation's medical device industry and preserve Congress's role in overseeing Medicare spending. All votes for these bills will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2015 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and a long, sweeping underline.