



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION™

Executive Office

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October 3, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady, *Chair*
The Honorable Richard Neal, *Ranking Member*
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden, *Chair*
The Honorable Frank Pallone, *Ranking Member*
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **H.R. 849 – Protecting Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act of 2017**

Dear Committee Members:

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members and 94 percent of all American Board of Plastic Surgery board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States. Plastic surgeons provide highly skilled surgical services that improve both the functional capacity and quality of life of patients. These services include the treatment of congenital deformities, burn injuries, traumatic injuries, hand conditions, and cancer. ASPS promotes the highest quality patient care, professional and ethical standards, and supports the education, research, and public service activities of plastic surgeons. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments supporting H.R.849, the *Protecting Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act of 2017*.

ASPS strongly opposes the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) and asks that you advance this legislation repealing IPAB, created under the Affordable Care Act. We are very concerned that IPAB will cut provider reimbursement without ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries receive quality care from skilled providers. These actions would have a great regional and national impact with too little oversight, which is very worrisome as it may lead to serious unintended consequences for both patients and physicians.

ASPS appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the *Protecting Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act* and requests that you advance this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs, with any questions at phermes@plasticsurgery.org or (847) 228-3331.

Sincerely,

Debra Johnson, MD
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons