



National Military Veterans Alliance
5535 Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151

Phone: (703) 750-1342
Fax: (703) 354-4380

**Statement of
The National Military and Veterans Alliance
for the
Committee on Ways and Means
Health Subcommittee
Hearing on the Independent Payment Advisory Board
Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

Chairman Herger and Ranking Member Stark, on behalf of the National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), representing 35 military associations and veterans organizations with a combined membership of more than 3.5 million members, we are grateful to the Health Subcommittee for this opportunity to express our views regarding consideration of the Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

The National Military and Veterans Alliance submits the following statement to express our deep concern about the potential adverse impact the Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) will have on veterans, military retirees and their families and to ask for your support of H.R. 452, a bill to repeal establishment of the IPAB.

As you know, almost one third of our nation's 24 million veterans are over the age of 65, and the vast majority of them live in households in which at least one person receives Medicare benefits. Thus the impact of any change in Medicare services is felt both immediately and directly by them. Moreover, because Medicare reimbursement rates and coverage determinations are standard measures for some provisions of TRICARE as well as a number of private insurance programs, we have real concerns about the IPAB indirect impact upon military retirees now and particularly in the future as its scope of authority expands.

As created, IPAB is an agency without direct accountability either to Congress or to the public; it is also an agency not subject to any form of judicial appeal. We are concerned that, as currently constituted, IPAB is not even required to consider the impact of its cuts on Medicare patients. And we are most troubled by the way in which Medicare beneficiaries, patient advocates, and the American people have no recourse to its actions. We are sensitive to the economic pressures that Medicare faces, but we strongly believe that this is not the correct way to address the problem.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance urges your support of efforts currently underway to remedy this situation through repeal of the language establishing the Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board by supporting the passage of H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance thanks the Subcommittee on Health for your leadership on this issue and on numerous and important quality of the life issues that affect the generations of servicemembers, their families and their survivors.

The provision of affordable, quality health care is one of the most important non-cash benefits received by our members for uniformed service. Through their uniformed service, these men and women have changed the world for the better, exactly as those in uniform today's are doing in difficult circumstances elsewhere around the globe

National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA)



NMVA Co-Director Rick Jones,
National Association for Uniformed Services

NMVA Co-Director Jody Nyalko,
Gold Star Wives

American Logistics Association

Military Order of Foreign Wars

American Military Retirees Association

Military Order of the World Wars

American Military Society

National Association for Uniformed Services

American Retirees Association

National Gulf War Resource Center

American WWII Orphans Network

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

AMVETS (American Veterans)

Reserve Enlisted Association

Armed Forces Top Enlisted Association

Reserve Officers Association

Armed Forces Marketing Council

Senior Citizens League

Army Navy Union

Society of Military Widows

Association of the United States Navy

The Flag and General Officers Network

Catholic War Veterans

The Retired Enlisted Association

Gold Star Wives of America

Tragedy Assistant Program for Survivors

Hispanic War Veterans Association

Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees

Japanese American Veterans Association

Veterans of Modern Warfare

Korean War Veterans Foundation

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Legion of Valor

Vietnam Veterans of America

Military Families United

Women in Search of Equity

Military Order of the Purple Heart

The National Military and Veterans Alliance receives no grants or contracts from the Federal government.