



**SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
VICE CHAIRMAN**

Road to Rationing

From IPAB's Creation to Seniors' Coverage Cuts

Two Years Ago – The White House Announces the Vision for a Rationing Board

July 17, 2009 – The White House: *“One of the most potent reforms is a change in the process of health care policymaking: **empowering an independent, non-partisan body of doctors and other health experts to make recommendation about Medicare payment rates and other reforms.**”*

One Year Ago – The White House Creates the Bureaucratic, Unelected Board

March 23, 2010 – The President's Health Care Law: *The President's health care law **creates the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)** whose purpose is to “reduce the per capita rate of growth in Medicare spending.”*

April 19, 2010 – The President Nominates Someone Who Supports Rationing to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid: *Donald Berwick, “It's not a question of whether **we will ration care** – it is whether we will ration with our eyes open.”*

Now - The White House Increases the Board's Power Over Coverage Cuts

April 13, 2011 – President Obama Doubles Down on the Board's Power: *“We will slow the growth of Medicare costs by **strengthening an independent commission** of doctors, nurses, medical experts and consumers who will look at all the evidence and recommend the best ways to reduce unnecessary spending...”*

Future – The Unaccountable Board Will Decide Medicare Reimbursement Rates, Quality of Care

- **Starting January 2014** – When the unelected, bureaucratic board decides to cut reimbursement rates for Medicare services, America's seniors will lose access to the doctors and the care they need.

Congress & the Courts Must Throw Up a Road Block

- America's seniors deserve better. An unelected, unaccountable board of bureaucrats should not get to decide what Medicare will cover.
- The Goldwater Institute has challenged the constitutionality of IPAB.
- Members from both sides of the aisle are growing increasingly opposed to the rationing board. Five House Democrats have cosponsored IPAB repeal legislation (H.R. 452, Reps. Berkley (NV) Capuano (MA), Kissell (NC), Sanchez (CA), and Schwartz (PA)).
- Senator Cornyn has introduced S. 668 that will repeal IPAB.
- We must pass this bill and restore seniors' personal rights over their health care decisions.