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As you may know, earlier this year Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act to avoid a government shutdown, lift budget caps, and stop the cycle of budgeting by crisis. While an imperfect deal, it takes necessary steps to ensure our armed forces have every resource they need to do the job we've asked of them. In case you didn't already know, I wanted to highlight some of the other provisions within the recent budget deal that you might be interested in.

**Repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).** Established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), IPAB is responsible for submitting fiscal recommendations to Congress regarding ways to cut Medicare spending. However, if Congress fails to act via legislation by August 15th each year, IPAB's recommendations for how to cut spending go into effect immediately, negatively affecting those who rely on Medicare. I believe that our Medicare program should be governed by patients and their providers, not an unaccountable 15 member panel like IPAB.

**Lifts Medicare therapy caps.** Decades ago caps were placed on the amount Medicare would pay towards physical, occupational, or speech therapy. From time to time Congress would pass bills that provided exceptions for the caps, but this January Congress failed to provide those exceptions. As a result, many Medicare recipients feared whether or not they would be able to receive their therapy. This deal finally eliminates that uncertainty for good.

Please do not hesitate to [contact me](#) anytime an issue that concerns you comes before the House.

It's an honor to serve you and Virginia's First District in the People's House.

Sincerely,

Rob

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