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**Statement of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
On Amendment #1 to H.R. 5, Protecting Access to Healthcare Act
March 20, 2012**

Mr. Chairman, I have offered an amendment today to strike the repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (Title II) from the bill.

The Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) is a board of fifteen doctors and experts established by the Affordable Care Act to find ways to control health care costs associated with Medicare. Under the Act, IPAB will make recommendations to slow the growth rate in Medicare spending if spending exceeds a certain target rate.

Congress has consistently ignored the recommendations of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), which preceded IPAB, and failed to contain Medicare spending. If we do nothing, Medicare costs will continue to increase, hurting millions of seniors across the country.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the repeal of IPAB would increase direct spending by \$3.1 billion over 10 years. Now is not the time to repeal measures that will save money and reduce our deficit.

IPAB is one of the only tools in place to keep costs under control and find ways to ensure Medicare affordability, accessibility and sustainability.

I urge that my amendment be made in order. Thank you.