

Washington DC—Congressman Akin, a senior member of the House Budget Committee, released this statement following the passage of H.R. 5, the Protecting Access to Healthcare (PATH) Act:

“The President’s healthcare bill was touted as a reform that would lessen the burden on American families and health care providers alike. So far, we have only seen this unconstitutional mandate centralize healthcare and remove individual choice. H.R. 5, which I cosponsored, contains two substantive reforms to Obamacare and I am glad to see it pass the House.

“H.R. 5 initiates meaningful tort reform to mitigate insurance costs to health providers which is causing a huge strain on our nation’s health system. The legislation also repeals the notorious Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a powerful board of unelected bureaucrats whose sole job will be to save money by restricting access to health care for Medicare beneficiaries. This rationing board conceived by Democrats’ threatens seniors’ access to care by requiring seniors and Americans with disabilities to pay for IPAB in order to cut their Medicare benefits. IPAB embodies the very thing Americans fear most about Obamacare – unaccountable Washington bureaucrats meeting behind closed doors to make unilateral decisions that should be made by patients and their doctors.

“Patients should be in charge of their own health care decisions and H.R. 5 goes a long way towards preserving this freedom and reducing health care costs. I support a complete repeal of Obamacare and am committed to working with my colleagues to protect and strengthen health care.”

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