



Thomas A. Schatz
President

May 16, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

Reps. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.), Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.), and Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.) recently introduced H.R. 1286, the Healthcare Fiscal Accountability Act. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is rife with sloppily written and onerous provisions, the impact of which are only now being fully realized. In addition to containing numerous tax increases, insurance mandates, and unfunded Medicaid expansions, the PPACA contains \$105.5 billion worth of automatic funding through fiscal year (FY) 2019. Even though the current budget environment will likely stimulate scrutiny of federal agencies and programs across the board for possible reductions and eliminations, the spending authority in the PPACA is statutorily obligated and cannot be retracted.

H.R. 1286 would take this spending off autopilot by requiring PPACA funds to be specifically authorized prior to being spent, giving Congress the option to either grant or deny support to specific healthcare expenditures. Any unobligated funds for FY 2011 and FY 2012, as well as all appropriations for future years, would be rescinded. There is simply no reason why healthcare spending should be allowed to circumvent the normal budgetary process while all other agencies and programs must prove their worth each year. This bill would subject the PPACA funding to the same level of transparency and oversight required of all other federal expenditures.

Federal spending continues to balloon and taxpayers are bracing themselves as the nation rapidly approaches its statutory, record-breaking \$14.3 trillion debt limit. As Congress examines areas of wasteful spending and contemplates budget cuts, it should refuse to give any federal expenditure an automatic, unchecked pass. I strongly urge you to support the Healthcare Fiscal Accountability Act. All votes on H.R. 1286 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2011 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,