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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2306**

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STEERING

November 6, 2019

REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

DEPUTY WHIP TEAM

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you continue work on funding legislation for fiscal year 2020, I write to urge the inclusion of a suspension or permanent repeal of the Medical Device Tax in any agreement that is reached. The inclusion of this provision, or lack thereof, will be a major factor in many members' decision to support such an agreement. My home state of Minnesota – in addition to thousands of Americans – stand to face dire consequences if this issue is not addressed before December 31, 2019.

Over 6,500 medical device manufacturers in the United States depend on relief from this onerous tax to fuel progress within the industry. When the medical device tax was implemented in 2013, more than 25 percent of the tax was paid for by Minnesota businesses, and manufacturers nationwide were forced to shed nearly 29,000 jobs. Research and development spending in this lifesaving field decreased by \$34 million, and reports suggest an additional 21,000 jobs may be lost if the tax is reinstated on January 1, 2020. With over 35,000 Minnesotans currently working in the industry, and more than 700 medical device companies calling Minnesota home, it is crucial that this tax is eliminated.

Nowhere else in the world is the medical technology industry as advanced as in the United States. It is imperative that we remain a leader in this important sector. I urge the continued suspension or outright repeal of the Medical Device Tax in any future spending agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress