September 19, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

As members of the New York delegation who support a repeal of the medical device tax, we write to urge bipartisan action to address this tax before the end of the year. The medical device tax suspension expires on December 31, 2019, and it is critical to the future of this vital American manufacturing industry in our state that this tax is not once again applied to its products. This looming tax increase will impact medical technology innovation and job creation and threatens to destabilize the marketplace for both industry and patients.

The medical device industry directly employs 400,000 Americans. New York has a significant concentration of medical technology manufacturers, boasting a workforce of close to 20,000 people, with an average salary of just over $46,000 per year. The economic contribution from the medtech industry to the state’s economy is about $7.4 billion.

Overall, the U.S. medical technology industry saw its jobs ranks fall by nearly 29,000 while the medical device excise tax was in effect from 2013 to 2015, according to data from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Now that the tax has been suspended, medical technology companies in New York and across the country have been able to invest those resources into research, development, and hiring. A resumption of the tax could erode gains in employment in the medtech sector from the last four years, ultimately hurting innovation and patient access to new technology.

Access to advanced medical technology is critical, improving patient health and generating cost savings across the health care sector and the economy. Studies have shown that appropriate use of advanced medical technology can help improve health outcomes and provide significant benefits to the economy due to better treatment, reduced disability leave, better management of chronic conditions, and increased productivity.

Legislation to repeal the device tax enjoys broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate as members from both parties recognize the impact this tax has on our constituents, both in access to the diagnostic tools at the core of providing quality care, and the hundreds of thousands employed by the industry. We support action to stop the resumption of the medical device tax to ensure that these patients and jobs are protected. We thank you for your attention to this issue, and we look forward to working with you.
Sincerely,

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Chris Collins  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress