



AdvaMed

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January 22, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the medical technology industry, I wholeheartedly congratulate you and Vice President Harris on your election win and your inauguration Wednesday. Your commitment to healing this country and working to bridge the gap that unnecessarily divides us is precisely what we need at this critical time. We offer our support, because we know that if you succeed, our country succeeds as well.

We appreciate your transition team's hard work over the past several weeks to better understand our industry and the critical role it plays in our health care system, and we look forward to continuing that work on our mutual priorities with you and your new administration.

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) is the largest trade association in the world for the medical technology companies who innovate and manufacture literally every medical device, technology, and supply you find in any given health care setting – including the PPE, ventilators, tests, and vaccine supplies that are so key to saving lives during this pandemic. On behalf of the entire industry and the more than 400 companies our organization represents, I am writing to express our views on your expected invocation of the Defense Production Act to aid the medical technology industry's production efforts.

We look forward to working closely with you and your team as partners to implement a holistic, science-driven strategy in the optimal and most efficient way possible. As you have said, the one thing we can't afford to waste is time.

As I am sure you know, our companies have been on the front lines in the fight against COVID for the past year. Even prior to government directives, this industry mobilized quickly to ramp up to 24/7 production of the PPE, ventilators, COVID-19 tests, and vaccine supplies our health care system would need to save lives. And we immediately established crucial partnerships with the federal and state governments to ensure that our technologies would go exactly where they needed to go as this virus moved its way unpredictably through the country.

Last Spring, we established a national testing registry - the AdvaMed COVID Testing Supply Registry - and called for closing coverage gaps in COVID-19 testing, and recommended the establishment of a public-private National Testing Board to leverage the real-time data collected by the registry to ensure tests were being sent where they were needed most. We believed then and continue to believe today that a public-private board – chaired by a National Coordinator for Diagnostic Testing and comprised of leaders from the private sector (diagnostics manufacturers, hospitals and health systems, public health laboratories, distributors, clinical labs, and retail pharmacies), HHS agencies, and FEMA – would provide critical help overseeing implementation of a national testing plan informed by a private-public registry/dashboard modeled after the AdvaMed Registry.

Neither the medical technology industry nor the federal government can succeed alone. It requires exactly this type of holistic, collaborative effort. Furthermore, this partnership should reflect the reality on the ground and be firmly rooted in our industry’s experience, both throughout this pandemic as well as the 2009 H1N1 outbreak. We are deeply familiar with what works, what doesn’t, and which actions would ultimately prove counterproductive.

As an industry, we have had first-hand experience with the Defense Production Act (DPA), which was invoked throughout the course of the pandemic by the previous administration. Due to the breadth of products manufactured by our members, we now have a deep understanding of how it can be an effective tool in some cases and disruptive in others. We have learned that some of the most pressing supply chain challenges throughout the pandemic were less about overall capacity, and more about allocation, distribution, and “last mile” roadblocks. Whether it is providing enough PPE, administering tests to all who need them, or getting vaccines into Americans’ arms, it is critical that we work together to understand the true picture of demand and the various obstacles to delivering these products to those who need them the most.



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That's why successful implementation of the Defense Production Act has always started with early, open communication and coordination between the companies themselves and our federal partners. We encourage the administration to work directly with AdvaMed as the primary convener for this global industry, but even more importantly, we encourage them to communicate and coordinate directly with the medical technology companies in question before any invocation of the DPA.

We look forward to working with you and your administration on how the federal government can best help our industry continue its work to save lives from COVID-19. I hope we have the opportunity soon to further discuss this with you or members of your administration. Again, congratulations on your incredible achievement. I have no doubt that you will rise to every challenge before you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Whitaker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Whitaker

