

Cosponsor the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2019

Sending Office: Honorable Ron Kind
Sent By: alex.eveland@mail.house.gov

Request for Cosponsor(s)

Cosponsor the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2019

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in co-sponsoring the Protect Medical Innovation Act, which would repeal the medical device tax.

The medical device tax is a 2.3% excise tax on the sale of most medical technologies that was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. Given that this tax applies to revenues, not profits, it is extremely punitive to medical technology innovators. Since the inception of the medical device tax, there has been growing bipartisan support to end this tax on innovation and it has been suspended multiple times by Congress. In 2018, the House passed a bill to repeal the tax 283-132, but the Senate failed to act.

If Congress **does not act this year**, the medical device will be reinstated in 2020, and billions of dollars will be diverted away from research and development for cures and therapies. Perhaps most concerning, the short term suspensions limit the ability of companies to make longer term investments in new technologies and treatments without the certainty of a full repeal.

Medical devices have revolutionized health care. Advances in treatment mean patients undergoing less-invasive procedures, shorter hospitalizations, reducing recovery times and lower overall costs. New technologies diagnose illnesses earlier, lowering the impact of care on a person's daily life. Breakthrough concepts reduce the overall cost of health care for patients and the system. All of these gains are at risk if the medical device tax is reinstated.

Large bipartisan majorities in Congress agree that the medical device tax is bad policy and have suspended the tax twice for a total of four years. Additionally, Congress has suspended the tax longer than it has allowed it to be in effect, with no measurable impact on coverage. While these suspensions have had no measurable impact on health care coverage, the relief has enabled medical device makers to invest in important research and development projects and new hires.

If the tax is allowed to go back into effect, it will exacerbate job losses sustained when the tax was in effect. During that period, the U.S. medical technology industry saw its jobs ranks fall by nearly 29,000 according to data from the U.S. Department of Commerce. These workers earn on average \$58,000 annually, well above the national average for manufacturing. At a time when we all want to create more high-tech manufacturing jobs, it is all the more important that we put a permanent end to policies like the medical device tax.

We urge you to join us in supporting the Protect Medical Innovation Act, and we look forward to working with you to help ensure that this proud American success story can continue to be the world leader in providing a healthier tomorrow. To cosponsor, please contact Alex Eveland with Rep. Ron Kind at alex.eveland@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind

Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

Member of Congress

Scott Peters

Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

Member of Congress

Terri Sewell

Member of Congress

Darin LaHood

Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene

Member of Congress

Jason Smith

Member of Congress