



July 17, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal,

The Society of Interventional Radiology is a professional society representing more than 7,000 physicians trainees, medical students, scientists and clinical associates, including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, radiologic technologists and paramedical professionals whose mission is to improve patient care through image-guided therapy. We are writing you today to urge you to pass H.R 184, "The Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2017."

As you know, H.R 184 would permanently repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax on certain types of medical devices. SIR applauds the efforts of both the U.S House of Representatives and U.S Senate in addressing this issue over the years. The most recent suspension of this tax to December 31, 2019 was greatly appreciated and goes a long way towards supporting innovation and product development, which is vital to the health and well-being of our patients.

As a specialty, interventional radiology is synonymous with modern medicine. Interventional radiologists are on the front lines of clinical advances and use of the latest image-guided technologies. Interventional radiologists work across the body to deliver minimally invasive treatments for a variety of conditions. By harnessing the power of advanced imaging (ultrasound, X-rays, CAT scans, MRI scans and other innovative methods), interventional radiologists can see inside a patient's body and treat complex conditions—even cardiovascular disease and cancer—less invasively and with unprecedented precision.

To further the advances we have made in patient care, interventional radiologists rely heavily on devices such as catheters and stents to perform many of the cutting edge procedures we use in our practice.

The implementation of the medical device tax in 2013, has had an extremely detrimental impact on the medical device industry and its ability to innovate, grow and serve patients. While not directly impacted by the device tax, this has caused a trickle-down effect upon the practice of interventional radiology by impeding efforts to get safe, effective, and innovative products to patients in a timely manner. A repeal of the device tax would alleviate the uncertainty behind

efforts to further research and develop innovative and life saving devices instrumental in patient care.

On behalf of the SIR membership and the patients we serve, we respectfully urge you to vote to pass H.R 184, so that we can continue to foster medical innovation and growth, and adequately serve the patients in our care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Victoria Marx".

M. Victoria Marx, MD
President, Society of Interventional Radiology