



June 1, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin,

The [Alliance for Aging Research](http://www.agingresearch.org) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their application to improve the experience of aging and health. The Alliance believes that advances in research help people live longer, happier, more productive lives and reduce health care costs over the long term. We support policies that advance medical research and innovation and address the needs of aging patients. For this reason, the Alliance for Aging Research supports H.R. 160, the *Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015*, a bill that amends the Internal Revenue code to repeal the excise tax on medical device manufacturers and importers. We applaud your leadership in bringing this important bill before the House Ways and Means Committee for markup this week.

We believe the tax will negatively impact the United States medical technology industry's ability to develop new products that could improve the detection and treatment of age-related diseases and conditions, as well as they way we provide care for the aging population. The 2.3% medical device tax places an unnecessary and pernicious burden on the medical device industry. The tax is the equivalent of more than one dollar for every four in industry profits. Medical device companies are offsetting this decrease in profitability by cutting into their investments in research and development.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), an association representing leaders in the medical technology industry, 30.6% of members said they had reduced research and development as a result of the tax, while 50% said they would consider reducing research and development investment if the device tax were not repealed.

The unmet health challenges of older adults are an enormous financial and human burden. More resources—not less—are needed to address these challenges. Your support of this legislation will do much to insure the medical device industry remains competitive globally and at the forefront of innovations that will improve the living experiences of aging Americans. If you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance as H.R. 160 advances, please do not hesitate to contact us at (202) 293-2856 or by email at speschin@agingresearch.org and cbens@agingresearch.org.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Susan Peschin in black ink.

Susan Peschin, MHS
President and CEO

Handwritten signature of Cynthia Bens in black ink.

Cynthia Bens
Vice President, Public Policy