



December 5, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20002

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

On behalf of our respective organizations, Research!America, the nation's largest not-for-profit advocacy and public education alliance committed to elevating the priority our nation assigns to faster medical and public health progress; and the Alliance for Aging Research, the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their application to vastly improve the universal human experience of aging and health, we are writing to urge you to move swiftly to repeal the medical device excise tax this year.

Under your considered leadership, the 115th Congress has demonstrated a steadfast, bipartisan commitment to advancing the pace of progress against deadly and debilitating health threats. Your determination to prevent and fight these threats has moved us closer to making unprecedented advances against Alzheimer's disease, cancer, opioid addiction, and numerous other diseases and conditions that compromise the health and well-being of the American people. To build on this groundwork, Congress should act now to repeal the medical device excise tax.

This tax has been twice suspended on a bipartisan basis, and for good reason: while our goal as a nation should be to increase investment in new medical technologies, targeted taxes like this one have the opposite effect. In a recently released [analysis](#) of US investments in medical and health R&D investment commissioned by Research!America and compiled by the analytics firm TEconomy, estimated investment in new medical technologies slowed significantly after the medical device excise tax went into effect, followed by steady increases when the tax was suspended.

From diagnostics that empower early diagnosis and appropriate care to restorative devices that enhance sight, hearing and mobility, new medical technologies play a pivotal role in driving medical and public health progress forward. Your support to repeal the medical device excise tax will do much to ensure the medical device industry remains competitive globally and at the forefront of innovations that will improve lives. Repealing the medical device excise tax is a pragmatic means of putting more medical innovation to work. We urge you to act on a bipartisan basis to end the tax this year.

For questions regarding this letter, please contact Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney, Vice President, Policy & Advocacy, Research!America at edehoney@researchamerica.org or 571-482-2717.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mary Woolley in black ink.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America

Handwritten signature of Susan Peschin in black ink.

Susan Peschin, MHS
President and CEO
Alliance for Aging Research