

January 31, 2017

Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the Organized Dentistry Coalition, our health professional organizations would like to express our strong support for S.108, Protect Medical Innovation Act, which would repeal the excise tax on medical device manufacturers and importers. The dental manufacturing industry estimates that the medical device excise tax will increase the cost of dental care by over \$160 million annually resulting in harm to our patients and an increase in the overall cost of health care.

Good oral health is an essential part of an individual's overall health and well-being. An increase in the cost of oral health care as a result of the excise tax on medical devices - including restorative materials, instruments, impression materials and equipment – could make health care less affordable and act as a deterrent to patients seeking dental care.

As you know, health care professionals who operate solo or small group practices are economic engines for their communities. In 2010, the most recent year for which we have survey data, 96.2 percent of the dentists surveyed reported that they work in practices comprising five or fewer dentists. The nature of dental insurance plans means that a dentist's reimbursements may not keep pace with this tax and many offices will have to absorb most of the increased cost. Operating costs for dental practices, particularly specialties, are significant, and the ability to sustain or grow small businesses like dental practices will be further constrained under this new excise tax.

Again, we strongly urge you to repeal the burdensome excise tax on medical devices. If you have any questions regarding the impact of the tax on a dental practice or our patients, please contact Margo Klosterman at klostermanm@ada.org or 202-898-2402.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association
Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Association of Women Dentists
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
National Dental Association

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January 31, 2017

Honorable Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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