



Health Care Reform / Guest OP ED for Indy Star

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Dear Editor,

For decades, Indiana has been a hot bed for developing cutting edge medical technologies, devices and surgical tools. That's why places like Indianapolis, Warsaw, Evansville, Spencer, Batesville, and Bloomington have more at stake in the health care debate than many other American cities. The decisions Congress makes will not only affect patients across the country who benefit from products designed and made by hard-working Hoosiers – they will impact the livelihood of these workers, their families and neighbors, and many communities in our state. With approximately 18,500 direct medical device jobs in Indiana and another 75,000 Hoosier families indirectly supported by these jobs, the medical device industry is a major contributor to Indiana's economy.

Both the House-passed and Senate health care reform bills include a proposed tax on Indiana companies that make artificial knees and hips, spinal implants, stents, cardiac devices, and other medical wonders. The bill reported out of the Senate Finance Committee in October would have imposed a chilling \$40 billion tax on medical device manufacturers – costing Hoosier jobs, adding significant costs to our health system, and threatening innovation and America's competitiveness in the global economy.

Our own Senator Evan Bayh recognized the potentially devastating impact such a tax would have had on Indiana's medical device companies and on jobs in our state during these challenging economic times and went to bat for the state with Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid. When Senator Reid unveiled his new version of the bill, the tax was reduced to \$20 billion over 10 years—largely as a result of Senator Bayh's advocacy on behalf of Indiana's medical technology workers.

The members of the Indiana Medical Device Manufacturers' Council, and the Hoosiers they employ, truly appreciate Senator Bayh's efforts to save Indiana jobs by moderating the impact of this burdensome tax. Nonetheless, concerns remain about the impact that such a tax will have on device innovation. We, and Senator Bayh, recognize that there is work left to be done. Indiana's medical device companies look forward to Senator Bayh's continued leadership on these issues of vital importance to our state.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Durgin
President, Indiana Medical Device Manufacturers Council

IMDMC Board Member Companies

*Anson Group, Baker & Daniels, Bayer Diabetes Care, Biomet Inc., Cook Inc., DePuy Orthopaedics,
Eli Lilly and Company, Hill Rom, Inc., Johnson & Johnson Inc., Medtronic Inc., Roche Diagnostics Corp., Zimmer Inc.*

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