



February 6, 2013

The Honorable Michael Turner
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Turner:

On behalf of BioOhio, the state bioscience industry association, I want to express my support for your legislation, the First Responder Medical Device Tax Relief Act, which would exempt medical equipment used by first responders from the new 2.3% excise tax on medical devices, part of the Affordable Care Act.

As you know, the medical device industry is currently hanging in delicate balance. While the demand is strong, the costs of domestic manufacturing are daunting. Off-shore locations are offering production at much cheaper rates (labor and corporate tax). BioOhio is committed to retaining our production in Ohio and the United States, but the newly-imposed taxes on our industry are making foreign incentives more enticing than ever.

Your bill is an important step in repealing the detrimental effects of this tax. Relieving manufacturers of first-responder medical equipment of an unfair tax burden is a progressive foot forward in advocacy and support for the entire industry. Similarly, this bill aligns with other concurrent efforts in both the House and Senate to reverse the forecasted negative impact that the Affordable Care Act will have on the medical industry, private business and constituents both in Ohio and across the nation.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for all your work on behalf of Ohio's medical device manufacturers.

Sincerely,

President & CEO, BioOhio