

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
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June 16, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: H.R. 160, the Protect Medical Innovation Act

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we enthusiastically support passage of H.R. 160, the "Protect Medical Innovation Act," when it comes to the House floor for a vote. This bipartisan bill has nearly 300 cosponsors and would repeal the medical device tax.

Created by the Affordable Care Act, the medical device tax is a 2.3 percent excise tax that applies to the gross sales of medical device products. This arbitrary tax is adversely affecting medical innovation and patient care. Furthermore, according to a recent report, as many as 195,000 jobs may be lost due to the tax, either through layoffs or forgone jobs that would have been created. Because our specialty is so highly dependent on advances in medical technology, repealing the medical device tax is among neurosurgery's top legislative priorities.

Clearly, our healthcare system needs innovation to improve patient care and save lives. Unfortunately, this tax stifles innovation and reduces patient access to new lifesaving technologies. We, therefore, applaud the bipartisan efforts of Congress to abolish this arbitrary tax.

Thank you for considering our request. In the meantime, we look forward to working with Congress to develop policy solutions that better support medical innovation and increase treatment options for our patients.

Sincerely,

H. Hunt Batjer, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Nathan R. Selden, MD, PhD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives

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