



701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20004-2654
Tel: 202 783 8700
Fax: 202 783 8750
www.AdvaMed.org

A. Scott Whitaker
President and CEO
Direct: 202 434 7200
swhitaker@advamed.org

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

On behalf of the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), I am writing to express the medical device industry's appreciation for the Administration's focus on the critical importance of semiconductor chips to America's economic competitiveness and national security, and for your personal commitment to making strong investments in domestic manufacturing, research, and workforce to help strengthen America's global leadership in semiconductor manufacturing and innovation. The availability of chips and our country's diminishing competitiveness in this sector are not new issues, but the pandemic has brought to light the need to focus on this critical technology. As you work toward this end, I am also writing to strongly encourage the implementation of policies that ensure equal access to semiconductor chips for all industries that rely on them.

The medical device industry is an integral part of the U.S. economy with 13,000 facilities nationwide that support more than 2 million jobs, generating \$180 billion in domestic production. It is also a net exporter of products. That semiconductor chips are vital to the health and well-being of Americans has been made much clearer over the course of the pandemic. Hundreds of lifesaving medical technologies rely on semiconductor chips to function, including diagnostic testing devices, patient monitoring systems, ventilators and other respiratory devices, robot-aided surgical equipment, ultrasounds, neonatal ICU machinery, and continuous blood glucose monitors. There is no question that the availability of semiconductor chips is essential to delivering effective, timely patient care.

As patients return to hospitals and other healthcare settings for routine and non-COVID-related care, we would like to stress the importance of ensuring that the medical device sector – which does not have the purchasing power of other sectors – receives due

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consideration as the administration contemplates economic policy and financial incentives that increase semiconductor manufacturing and global chip production. In particular, as demand for chips continues to surge in the face of global supply constraints, we strongly urge the administration to implement policies that benefit all technologies, including those with medical applications, without prioritizing one industry over another.

Sincerely,

Scott Whitaker

CC: The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services