

BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
10TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1432 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4835

DISTRICT OFFICE:
111 BARCLAY BLVD, SUITE 200
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069
(847) 383-4870



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX
AND CAPITAL ACCESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1310

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. As you continue your work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations, we urge you to include language in the Committee report on medical device supply chain management.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the fragility of our critical supply chains, most importantly medical devices. Throughout the pandemic, our providers were left to treat patients without proper equipment, namely personal protective equipment (PPE). Masks, gloves, and gowns were in such low supply at times that our doctors and nurses were forced to reuse their limited supply, going against recommended clinical guidelines, and risking their lives to treat their patients. However, PPE is only a fraction of the consistent supply of medical devices hospitals, doctors, and first responders rely on to operate at full capacity, not to mention meeting increased demand due to an outbreak.

At the same time, COVID-19 has and will continue to stress our medical supply chain, resulting in shortages, delays, and interruptions in the supply of vital devices. We must also keep in mind that there are many other scenarios that could disrupt the medical device supply chain, not just a global pandemic, and strengthening our

supply chain should continue to remain a priority. The FDA needs the authorities and resources to continue to monitor our device supply chain and ensure an adequate amount of life-saving medical devices exists to meet demand.

In that vein, **we urge the Committee to include the following language in the Committee's FY22 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations report:**

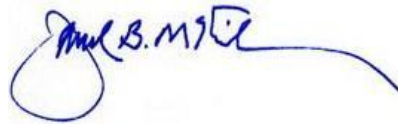
Vulnerabilities in Medical Device Supply Chain - The Committee is concerned by vulnerabilities in our medical device supply chain that have been brought to light by the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The FDA is critical for overseeing our global medical device supply chain and ensuring interruptions and discontinuances of life-saving devices do not adversely affect patients. The Committee encourages the FDA to work with Congress on ensuring they have the necessary tools and resources to prevent shortages and that we have ample supply of critical devices.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact our staff.

Sincerely,



BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress



DAVID B. MCKINLEY
Member of Congress

_____/x/
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

_____/x/
BILL PASCRELL
Member of Congress