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November 28, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Upton, and Ranking Members Murray and Pallone,

On behalf of the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) and the nearly two million men and women whose jobs are supported by the medical technology industry, I am writing to express our support for the 21st Century Cures Act. Our industry shares your goal of accelerating the discovery, development and delivery of cures for patients, and believes that this legislation holds the promise to strengthen the American innovation ecosystem.

The medical technology industry is central to the development of technologies and diagnostics that will provide the life-saving and life-enhancing treatments of the future. Additionally, the impact of medical technology on economic growth and competitiveness is significant. But the innovation ecosystem that supports our industry is stressed, with a sharp decline in the number of new medical technology start-up companies each year and significant decline in venture capital investment in the industry.

Policy improvements are essential if America is to retain its global leadership in medical technology and innovation. The 21st Century Cures Act includes a number of proposals designed to strengthen the innovation ecosystem and support the development of life-saving, life-enhancing medical technology. This includes key improvements to FDA's premarket program for medical devices – most significantly the establishment of an expedited pathway for breakthrough, innovative technologies – which will increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of the agency's review process and improve patient access to the best in medical progress. The bill also provides increased NIH funding which will help strengthen our R&D infrastructure, and funding for the FDA to implement the reforms advanced by the legislation. Collectively, these provisions are important and significant steps to strengthen our innovation ecosystem.

The 21st Century Cures Act represents a milestone accomplishment for medical innovation. We strongly support this legislation, and hope that Congress will move forward to quickly pass it. Thank you for your efforts to encourage innovation in medical technology.

Sincerely,

Scott Whitaker
President and CEO
AdvaMed