

SUSAN W. BROOKS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
5TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

1505 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2276

11611 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, SUITE 415
CARMEL, IN 46032

120 EAST 8TH STREET, SUITE 101
ANDERSON, IN 46016

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1405

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<http://susanwbrooks.house.gov/>

The Honorable Joseph J. Simons
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580

January 17, 2020

Dear Chairman Simons:

As the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) continues to examine how Original Equipment Manufacturers (“OEMs”) may limit or restrict repairs by third-parties and whether those limitations affect consumer protections, I ask that you give fair attention to the servicing of medical devices. I believe third-party service providers for medical devices play an important role in the health care industry by increasing market competition while encouraging their competitors to maintain high quality and cost-effective programs for health care providers.

I also ask that you give full and fair consideration to the issues and concerns raised by the Alliance for Quality Medical Device Servicing (“Alliance”). I believe that meaningful collaboration between third-party service providers and OEMs is critical to providing safe, high quality and cost-effective medical equipment management and service. Restricting or limiting the ability of third-party service providers to service or make repairs to medical devices gives me great concern. I believe all parties should be encouraged to work openly and collaboratively towards a reduction in the overall cost of providing health care and improved efficiency in the medical device industry.

By including the servicing of medical devices in the ongoing deliberation process, I believe the FTC will gain a better understanding of the challenges third-party service providers face and how their quality-focused service model can be used to reduce costs, ensure operational efficiency and generate innovation in the marketplace. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress