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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**MEDICAL DEVICE TAX:
MISGUIDED FROM
THE START!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  January 14, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

Congress recently repealed the "Medical Device Tax" portion of ObamaCare. This tax had bipartisan opposition from the start, so it's a wonder it has taken this long to be addressed. Several letters opposed the Minnesota Democrat Senators who voted for this action.

Here's my response:

Medical Device Tax: Misguided from the Start!

On 1/10 two letters showed disappointment in both of Minnesota's democratic senators, Klobuchar and Franken, for supporting repeal of the ACA's "Medical Device Tax." One writer claimed to be no big fan of the ACA, referring to it as "another piece of horrible sausagemaking." Yet, this writer wants to keep this tax as an integral piece of its support – thus apparently willing to "throw good money after bad."

A little background... The "medical device tax" was suspect from the beginning by members of both parties in Congress. I'm convinced it was just one more thing that was "cooked up" in a desperate attempt at artificially reducing the net costs reported by the Congressional Budget Office "scoring" procedure. From the start, few felt this portion of the legislation had the ability to be sustained in the long-term. It made no sense! This was a bipartisan opinion.

The Medical Device Tax clearly stifles innovation and incentives to keep our medical technology the best in the world. It also needlessly adds to the already high costs of medical technology. We have to determine our priorities: Do we want to be on the cutting edge of discoveries and advancements? Yes, we do! Do we want to eliminate unnecessary costs for healthcare services? Yes, we do!

That's why I step out of character and applaud Senators Klobuchar and Franken for help repealing this foolish section of the ACA!