



The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
South Agriculture Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

August 4, 2021

Dear Secretaries Raimondo, Buttigieg and Vilsack:

On behalf of the Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA), the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), and the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) we thank you for your leadership on the White House Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force. Significant transportation delays are hampering the supply chain's ability to support healthcare providers responding to COVID-19 – **to the point where transportation disruptions have become a healthcare issue.**

We urge the Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force to convene healthcare and transportation stakeholders to discuss solutions. Specifically, we recommend a dialogue focused on opportunities to:

- Develop a process prioritizing critical medical supplies and equipment during the current and future pandemics
- Align transportation operations to support healthcare during public health emergencies

HIDA is the industry trade association representing 107 distribution companies operating 500+ medical distribution centers across the care continuum nationwide. HIDA members deliver medical products and supplies, manage logistics, and offer customer services to virtually every healthcare provider. In 2020, they reliably delivered 51 billion units of PPE “the last mile” to providers.

AdvaMed is the leading trade organization representing more than 400 companies that produce the medical devices, diagnostic products and health information systems necessary for earlier disease detection, less invasive procedures and more effective treatments. Our companies manufacture the personal protective equipment, ventilators, COVID-19 diagnostic tests, and the medical equipment necessary to deliver the vaccines throughout this crisis.

ISEA represents companies that design test, manufacturer and supply a wide range of personal protective equipment and technologies. For more than 85 years ISEA members have provided personal protective equipment to keep worker safe from occupational hazards.

Rising COVID-19 cases combined with flu season demand will further strain the transportation system. The medical supply chain is currently preparing for flu season and the corresponding increased demand for PPE, ancillary products needed to administer the flu vaccine, and medical technologies to address everyday healthcare needs. Therefore, it is critical that a process to prioritize important medical supplies and equipment be identified.

Healthcare providers need to know how much product they are receiving and when. The medical supply chain relies on predictable transport to communicate product availability and delivery to providers. Transportation disruptions have severely limited reliable and timely movement of medical products. HIDA's attached infographic highlights how the combined intermodal challenges translate into weeks and months of medical supply delays.

We look forward to working with you on this critical issue and appreciate your consideration of our request. If you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to reach out to us directly, or to Linda Rouse O'Neill, Vice President of Government Affairs, HIDA, at rouse@hida.org; Abby Pratt, Senior Vice President, AdvaMed, at apratt@advamed.org; or Dan Glucksman, Director, Public Affairs, ISEA, at dglucksman@safetyequipment.org.

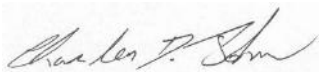
Sincerely,



Matthew J. Rowan
President & CEO
HIDA



Scott Whitaker
President & CEO
AdvaMed



Charles D. Johnson
President & CEO
ISEA

Cc:

The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Chairwoman Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
Ranking Member Roger Wicker, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
Chairman Peter DeFazio, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Ranking Member Sam Graves, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Chairwoman Patty Murray, Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
Ranking Member Richard Burr, Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
Chairman Frank Pallone, House Energy & Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Tim Manning, National COVID-19 Supply Coordinator, The White House

Background on HIDA:

HIDA members distribute items used in everyday medical services and procedures, ranging from gauze and gloves to diagnostic laboratory tests and capital equipment. **The existing commercial distribution channel serves the nation's 6,000 hospitals, 44,500 nursing homes and assisted living facilities, 230,000 physician offices, 267,000 laboratories and 12,200 home health agencies.**

Collectively, HIDA members manage 76 million square feet of warehouse space. Medical product distributors process 650 million orders annually for their healthcare provider customers and carry over 550,000 FDA-approved products from 5,500 medical manufacturer partners.

Background on AdvaMed:

AdvaMed is a trade association that leads the effort to advance medical technology in order to achieve healthier lives and healthier economies around the world. AdvaMed's membership has reached over 400 members and more than 80 employees with a global presence in countries including Europe, India, China, Brazil, and Japan. AdvaMed's member companies range from the largest to the smallest medical technology innovators and companies. The Association acts as the common voice for companies producing medical devices, diagnostic products and digital health technologies.

Background on ISEA:

ISEA is the leading association for personal protective equipment (PPE) and technologies that enable people to work in hazardous environments and an ANSI-accredited standard developing organization. The association works closely with manufacturers, test labs, subject matter experts, end-users, and government agencies in the standards development process. ISEA members—leaders in safety equipment manufacturing, testing and application—are united in the goal of protecting workers worldwide. For more than 75 years, ISEA has set the standard for personal protective technologies, supporting the interests of its member companies who are united in the goal of protecting the health and safety of people worldwide. It works with Congress and government agencies to consult with policymakers whose decisions affect the industry. It is a forum for information sharing and industry action, providing market insight and advocating for the use of personal safety equipment to keep workers safe. Visit [safetyequipment.org](https://www.safetyequipment.org) for more information.