



Testimony of
Thomas Tremble, Vice President and Managing Director, State Government Affairs Advanced
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on Raised Bill 6957,
An Act Establishing a Household Battery Recycling Stewardship Program

Chairman Kennedy and Chairman Albis, my name is Thomas Tremble. I am Vice President of State Government Relations at the Advanced Medical Technology Association, or AdvaMed. On behalf of the more than 1,600 companies within AdvaMed's membership, I want to provide a few comments on Raised Bill 6957, An Act Establishing a Household Battery Recycling Program.

Instead of commenting on the overall merits of a household battery recycling program, we will limit our comments to the legislation's connection to medical products. We were pleased to see that the bill's definition of "primary battery" specifically excludes "any battery that is sold or used in a medical device, as defined in 21 USC 321, as amended from time to time." We appreciate that the bill drafters recognize that medical devices, primarily used in health care settings, do not belong as part of a recycling stewardship program for household batteries.

AdvaMed is a trade association leading efforts to advance medical technology in order to achieve healthier lives and healthier economies around the world. AdvaMed represents 80 percent of medical technology firms in the United States and acts as the common voice for companies producing medical devices, diagnostic products, and health information systems. [Our members](#) produce nearly 90 percent of the health care technology purchased annually in the United States and more than 40 percent purchased annually around the world. AdvaMed's member companies range from the largest to the smallest medical technology innovators and companies. Our members' products range from syringes, needles, and bandages, to joint replacements, and imaging equipment. Some medical devices, such as surgical tools and physiological monitors, are battery-powered to provide portability, flexibility, and mobility for health care providers and patients.

A few examples of battery-powered medical devices, which are predominantly used in hospitals and other health care settings, are:

- Infusion pumps;
- Pacemakers;
- Defibrillators;

- Physiological Monitors;
- Ventricular Assist Devices and Artificial Hearts; and
- Surgical saws and drills.

I would like to highlight a few of the reasons why it is appropriate to exclude medical devices from the bill's provisions. The federal Food and Drug Administration strictly regulates all aspects of medical device design, manufacture, marketing, and post-market performance. State requirements for medical devices could require changes to product packaging and labeling. In addition, medical device manufacturers work closely with their suppliers and customers to minimize the environmental impact of their products through life-cycle product stewardship programs.

Further, there is the potential that any of these devices, and their batteries, could become contaminated by bodily fluids, either as a result of having been implanted in someone's body or having blood or other body fluids come in contact with them while they are being used in operating rooms, patient rooms, doctor's offices, or other settings.

For these reasons, it is appropriate that medical devices not be part of a household battery recycling program.

In closing, I again want to thank the Committee for recognizing that medical devices do not belong in a household battery recycling program and would urge the Environment Committee to resist any efforts to remove or narrow the scope of the medical device exemption language.