



Raman K. Malhotra, MD  
President  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
2510 North Frontage Road  
Darien, IL 60561

Dear Dr. Malhotra:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Becerra regarding the impact of the semiconductor shortage on the medical supply chain. The Secretary forwarded your letter to the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and asked that I reply directly to you.

We understand how important semiconductors are to those that rely on medical devices for treatment and maintenance of chronic illnesses. At ASPR, we are working closely with colleagues across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as well as the Biden-Harris Administration (the Administration) to address supply chain challenges and the shortage of semiconductors, in particular. But we do not do this work alone. Since semiconductors are used in multiple industries across many sectors, the Department of Commerce (DOC) is responsible for leading efforts to mitigate domestic semiconductor constraints. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has performed patient impact assessments on medical devices that are or may be in shortage as a result of semiconductor supply chain challenges. Subsequently, DOC held a number of roundtable meetings with domestic semiconductor manufacturers and medical device manufacturers to illustrate the criticality of these products. We will continue to work with FDA and DOC to highlight the importance of domestic semiconductor to this industry and do what we can to address device shortages of all sorts.

Demonstrating our vast commitment to this issue, on August 9, 2022 President Biden signed into law the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. The CHIPS and Science Act will boost American semiconductor research, development, and production, ensuring U.S. leadership in the technology that forms the foundation of everything from automobiles to household appliances to defense systems. America invented the semiconductor but produces about 10 percent of the world's supply—and none of the most advanced chips. Instead, we rely on East Asia for 75 percent of global production. The CHIPS and Science Act will unlock hundreds of billions more in private sector semiconductor investment across the country, including production essential to national defense and critical sectors.

Thank you, again, for your continued interest in this matter and for all you and your members do to support the health security of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn O'Connell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dawn O'Connell

Cc:

Sarah Gorman, President, Alliance of Sleep Apnea Partners  
David Schulman, President, American College of Chest Physicians  
Gilles Frydman, Executive Director, American Sleep Apnea Association  
Orly Avitzur, President, American Academy of Neurology