

Mr. Joël Lightbound M.P.
House of Commons Standing Committee
on Industry and Technology
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Sent via email: INDU@parl.gc.ca

Hon. François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Sent by Canada Post

Michael MacPherson
Clerk of the Committee
Tel.: 613-947-1971
Sent via email: INDU@parl.gc.ca

Mr. Wilson Miao
Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Sent by Canada Post

February 15, 2023

Dear INDU Chair, Honorable Minister Champagne, M. P. Miao and Mr. MacPherson:

RE: Canadian Medical Equipment Protection Plan (CMEPP) supports Bill C-244

Summary: The introduction of private member Miao's (Richmond Centre) **Bill C-244, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act (diagnosis, maintenance and repair)**, marks a unique opportunity for Canada's government to entrench the **Right to Repair** of equipment and devices owned by Canadians and Canadian organizations. The adoption of Bill C-244 would build the foundation on which all provinces could enact legislation to further support a competitive marketplace for diagnosis, maintenance and repair services.

The **Canadian Medical Equipment Protection Plan (CMEPP)** knows that an open and competitive marketplace is vital for medical equipment service management in Canada. On behalf of the 275 healthcare facilities it represents in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, CMEPP affirms its strong support for Bill C-244 without exemptions.

Why CMEPP's position is important

CMEPP is a Participant (Hospital) owned, not-for-profit organization created 27 years ago to help hospitals effectively manage their medical equipment service contracts. A crucial part of that work is giving hospitals choice over how their equipment contracts are managed and helping them find cost savings. Through CMEPP's efforts, Canadian hospitals have saved in excess of \$50 million on medical equipment service costs, funding they have been able to direct to patient care.

Hospital members rely on CMEPP as their trusted advisor for choosing the best service solution for various types of medical equipment. What makes that possible is CMEPP's insistence on doing due diligence – verifying qualified service suppliers through a rigorous review and vendor of record process.

Hospital leadership expresses support for the Bill

In recent weeks, CMEPP informed its Participant members about Bill C-244 and about Right to Repair activities taking place in Canada and internationally. CMEPP asked for their feedback on this critical subject to ensure it has a solid foundation for submitting this position paper to the Standing Committee on Industry and Trade (INDU).

Without exception, the feedback from C-suite executives and other senior hospital administrators, including biomedical engineers, expressed strong support for adopting Bill C-244 without amendments or exemptions.

Bill C-244 safeguards Canada's competitive marketplace

Canadian hospitals function under strict cost constraints and in order to maximize the value of their spend, must be able to choose the medical equipment service methodology, provider and cost that best meets their requirements. CMEPP has seen numerous examples of what happens when there is a discontinuation of parts and service and no time to source new suppliers. This puts pressure on staff, creates financial hardship, and patient care suffers.

CMEPP's ability to help hospitals maximize funding available for patient care is dependent upon the existence of a competitive marketplace for medical equipment service. Bill C-244 seeks to ensure that undue barriers do not exist for diagnosis, repair and maintenance through technological protective measures placed into a computer program.

Status quo cannot continue

Countless examples exist in Canadian hospitals of medical equipment continuing to be safely used through the servicing efforts of biomedical engineers and third parties after the end of manufacturer service support. If the changes as outlined in Bill C-244 are not made, restrictive practices around right to repair could continue. Those practices minimize the ability of medical equipment owners to manage their equipment repairs in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Passing Bill C-244 into Canadian law creates the needed foundation for competitive diagnosis, maintenance and repair services across Canada for many industries, including healthcare. Among the many benefits are improved utilization of scarce resources and reduced environmental damage from premature retirement of equipment.

CMEPP supports the Bill without exemptions

CMEPP and its 275 member Canadian hospitals support Bill C-244 as it is currently worded and without exemptions. It is the essential foundation for a competitive market for diagnosis, maintenance and repair of medical equipment in Canada, a vital service to Canadian hospitals and to Canadians.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nils Clausen
General Manager, Canadian Medical Equipment Protection Plan