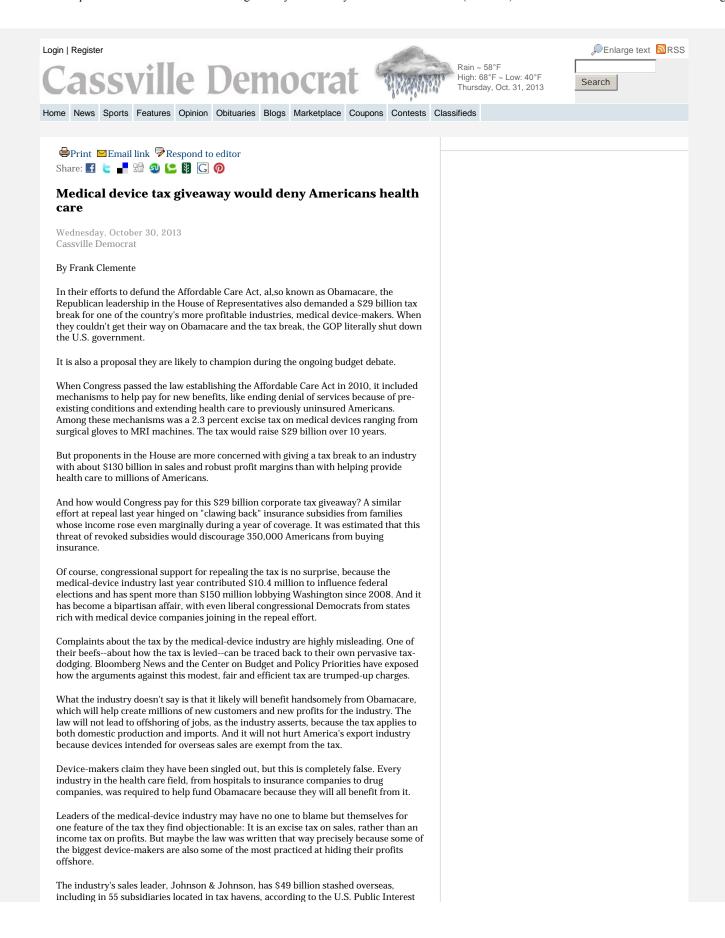
Cassville Democrat: Op/Ed Column: Medical device tax giveaway would deny Americans health care (10/30/13)

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Research Group. This money is out of reach of U.S. taxation until the day (which often never comes) the money returns to our shores.

General Electric, which is No. 2 in sales, is number 1 in offshoring profits, with \$108 billion tucked away overseas. Using both foreign and domestic loopholes, GE also managed to not pay any federal income taxes on nearly \$20 billion in profits between 2008-11, according to Citizens for Tax Justice. In fact, the company got \$10.6 billion in refunds, for an effective tax rate of negative 18.9 percent.

With some of America's biggest medical device-makers hiding their profits in tax havens, it's not surprising that the law requires that this small tax be on sales, not on profits.

A prominent Senate Republican recently floated the idea of repealing the medical-device tax as a "face-saving" measure for House Republican leaders who shut down the government in order to deny Americans health insurance. In essence, he is proposing to make all of us pay for a tax break to a very profitable industry in order to spare politicians some embarrassment. This is yet another sign that Washington's priorities are seriously out of whack.

Frank Clemente is executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness.

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