

June 3, 2026

House Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on Courts,
Intellectual Property, Artificial
Intelligence, and the Internet
2138 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet:

I write on behalf of We Work For Health, a coalition of national and local business leaders, labor organizations, biopharmaceutical companies, patient advocates and other healthcare stakeholders united in support of policies that foster innovation and facilitate the delivery of cutting-edge medicines.

We Work For Health recognizes patents as the lifeblood of biomedical innovation. As a global leader in this space, the United States bears significant costs to research, discover and develop life-saving and life-enhancing treatments. That investment carries substantial risk, and the pioneers and investors who drive this work depend on strong intellectual property protections to justify continued commitment.

America's IP framework has a proven track record of success protecting the biopharmaceutical industry through periods of volatility while keeping innovation at the forefront. Today, however, we stand at a crossroads.

Uncertainty poses a fundamental challenge to the biopharmaceutical industry, where many promising medications fail to survive rigorous clinical and regulatory trials and never reach patients. Patent certainty has proven to be a key driver of economic growth. One study finds that startups with patent protections are **87 times more likely** to scale than those without.

We Work For Health also recognizes the vital role of generic medicines: **9 out of 10 U.S. prescriptions are filled with generics**, which increases access to lower cost healthcare. Claims that so-called patent thickets block generic drugs are not supported by the evidence.

Modern medicines are built on multiple, distinct innovations and patents protect each one. The ETHIC Act's restrictions would disregard this reality, stripping protections from active

ingredients, specialized manufacturing and patient-friendly delivery devices that collectively make treatments safer and easier to use.

Patents enable companies to generate returns on investment, incentivizing continued industry participation while simultaneously funding the next generation of research and development.

Weakening patent rights does not encourage competition; it undermines it. These proposed changes would fall hardest on U.S. startups and small biotechnology firms at a moment when China's investment in the biopharmaceutical sector is rapidly accelerating.

In the United States, intellectual property protections support more than **63 million jobs** and account for over **41%** of GDP. Medical progress serves not only patients, but also the broader economy and national security. Policies that misread the innovation ecosystem risk undermining America's global leadership and its ability to deliver for the patients who depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Leonard'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Dan Leonard
Executive Director
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