

June 12, 2026

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions:

[We Work For Health](#) (WWFH) is a coalition of businesses, labor organizations, biopharmaceutical companies and patient advocates dedicated to strengthening U.S. biopharmaceutical leadership and patient access to innovative treatments. WWFH supports policies that foster innovation and facilitate the delivery of cutting-edge medicines.

As the Senate HELP Committee prepares to mark up the **Medication Affordability and Patent Integrity Act (S. 2658) (MAPIA)**, we urge members to carefully consider the bill's significant and far-reaching consequences for U.S. innovation, patient access and national security.

Handing China a Competitive Advantage: At a moment when China is accelerating its campaign to dominate the next generation of biomedical breakthroughs, MAPIA risks handing Beijing a significant competitive advantage. The bill's disclosure requirements would force companies to route sensitive FDA submissions – including trade secrets, proprietary manufacturing processes and confidential clinical data – through the USPTO, which operates under a general practice of making information it deems material to patentability available to the public.

Exposure of this information would benefit our Chinese competitors who are pouring unprecedented resources into closing the gap on American biomedical leadership. At a moment when America cannot afford to cede ground, MAPIA would give China's biotech sector a roadmap to our most sensitive research & development – accelerating its ambitions at American innovation's expense.

A Solution in Search of a Problem: The bill imposes sweeping new requirements on companies and regulators without evidence of a systemic issue that warrants such intervention. Despite claims that the filing of secondary patents contributes to so-called "thickets," USPTO's [own research](#) confirms there is no correlation between the number of patents on a product and the length of actual market exclusivity. Additional [independent research](#) has found that the average time to generic entry for brand drugs falls between 12 and 14 years – stable even as the number of associated patents has grown.

Fuel Litigation and Uncertainty: The bill's creation of a new patent infringement defense for generic and biosimilar manufacturers – available whenever an innovator fails to comply with its disclosure requirements – invites gamesmanship and excessive litigation that burdens courts and companies alike without benefiting patients. The resulting uncertainty would erode the patent predictability that investors and researchers depend on when committing to long-term, high-risk research & development.

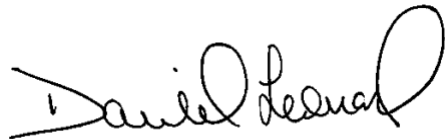
For these reasons, **we urge the Committee to oppose S. 2658** and to pursue patent and affordability reforms grounded in evidence, not assumptions.

We Work For Health has long recognized patents as the lifeblood of biomedical innovation: startups with patent protections are [87 times](#) more likely to scale than those without, and IP protections in the United States support more than [63 million jobs and account for over 41% of GDP](#). Policies that undermine that foundation do not strengthen competition; they undermine it.

As the Committee prepares for next week's markup, we invite you to explore the enclosed materials, which provide additional detail about the importance of preserving America's innovation ecosystem and maintaining our strong intellectual property protections.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Leonard
Executive Director
We Work For Health
www.weworkforhealth.org

We Work For Health Background Materials on IP:

- **Blog:** [Myths vs. Facts Understanding IP, Medical Innovation and Drug Affordability](#)
- **Letter:** [WWFH's Executive Director Urges Members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet to Safeguard Intellectual Property](#)
- **Video:** [Former USPTO Director David Kappos on Why Strong IP Protections are Key to America's Edge](#)
- **Video:** [From Lab to Life: Why Technology Transfer is Crucial to America's Innovation Pipeline](#)