



April 2, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs (USIJ), I'd like to offer input in advance of the Senate Judiciary Committee's upcoming Executive Business Meeting regarding four well-intentioned but ultimately counterproductive bills.

As a coalition that includes startup founders, individual inventors, early-stage investors, incubators, and research institutions, USIJ advocates for policies that promote innovation, protect intellectual property, and support the successful commercialization of new ideas.

All four bills -- The Drug Competition Enhancement Act (S. 1040), The Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act (S. 1041), The Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act (S. 1096), and The Interagency Patent Coordination and Improvement Act of 2025 (S. 1097) -- aim to combat alleged anti-competitive behavior by drug companies.

As a champion of inventors and entrepreneurs, USIJ fervently supports free-market competition. If these bills specifically addressed real anti-competitive behavior, we'd endorse them.

Unfortunately, they do not entirely accomplish this goal. All four bills are based on mistaken premises. In seeking to solve nonexistent problems, they could, in fact, create real ones.

Consider S. 1040, which would combat so-called "product hopping" -- a practice in which companies allegedly thwart competition by making and patenting small improvements to a product and then pulling the old version, which is about to lose patent protection, off the market.

Companies do indeed patent, research, and develop improved versions of products and phase out old ones. That's true not just in the drug sector, but in every industry.

But this isn't anti-competitive. It's just a description of how capitalism drives technological progress. Companies constantly look for ways to improve their products and grow market share. Without such continual improvements, consumers would lose interest. And in the drug industry, nothing prevents generic competitors from making off-patent versions of older medications.

Or consider S. 1041, which seeks to cut through supposed "patent thickets" that companies use to hedge the prospect of generic competition.

In reality, companies in almost every high-tech industry -- from electronics to pharmaceuticals -- have products that rely on dozens or even hundreds of patents. In 2024 alone, Samsung received nearly [6,400](#) new U.S. patents covering its many new technologies and processes. Arbitrarily preventing drug companies from patenting legitimate new advances will deter research and slow medical progress.

S. 1096 and S. 1097, meanwhile, create more red tape and introduce further bureaucratic and legal complexity into a patent system that's already complicated, particularly for startups without extensive legal departments.

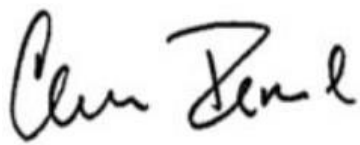
Weakening patent protections in one sector would have ripple effects across the entire innovation economy. When the patent system becomes less reliable, investors and inventors may opt not to pursue high-risk ideas. That'll lead to fewer startups, fewer breakthrough technologies, and slower economic growth.

USIJ supports efforts to make medicine more affordable and improve access to healthcare. But achieving those goals should not come at the expense of the system that allows transformative technologies to come to market.

We strongly encourage the Committee to reject these bills in their current form. America's continued leadership in research and entrepreneurship depends on a strong and predictable intellectual property regime.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further insights from our members or contribute to a more constructive policy dialogue on these issues.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Israel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Israel" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Israel
Executive Director
Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs