



September 20, 2022

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John B. Larson
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Himes
2137 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose Expansion of TRIPS Waiver

This is to follow-up several conversations we have had with the Connecticut Congressional delegation and staff concerning the Bioscience Growth Council's opposition to the proposal to expand the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) beyond the scope approved in June.

The June waiver was meant to be unique – a one-time policy adjustment to address a Covid-19 vaccine shortage. It turned out to be unnecessary because, by the time the waiver was agreed to, the biopharma industry's voluntary sharing of intellectual property and its manufacturing and distribution expertise had resolved the vaccine supply issue.

The intentions behind the waiver were well placed, but its logic was flawed. Further expansion of the waiver would be a similarly flawed policy direction. Most importantly, it would be counter-productive to the interests of patients.

As you know, the Connecticut Bioscience Growth Council's primary goal is the growth of Connecticut's bioscience cluster of start-up, mid-stage and established biopharma companies and research institutions. This work is first and foremost for patients, but it is also for the good jobs and careers biopharma brings to the Connecticut economy.

The key drivers of Connecticut bioscience sector growth are bioscience research and development and the creation of innovative intellectual property. The medicines that this intellectual property makes possible saves and extends lives. In addition, through the myriad of surgeries, procedures, hospitalizations and medical professional visits that biopharma intellectual property makes *unnecessary*, biopharma intellectual property dramatically reduces the cost of healthcare. Statin drugs to treat and prevent heart disease, for example, obviate the need for expensive bypass surgery and other cardiac procedures. Similarly, medicines now cure hepatitis C, replacing risky and hugely expensive liver transplant operations.

Intellectual property creation is costly – it typically takes \$2.8 billion and more than a decade to bring a new medicine from laboratory concept to pharmacy shelves.

If the rights given creators of biopharma intellectual property are undone, investment in future biopharma research and development will be at great risk. If the companies and investors who fund almost three-quarters of the cost of new medicine research and development believe they will not be able to recoup their huge investments, they will not make such investments.

We strongly urge you to oppose expansion of the TRIPs waiver. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this issue further, to meet with Bioscience Growth Council members or for additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. R. Pescatello', written in a cursive style.

Paul R. Pescatello, JD, PhD
Senior Counsel/Executive Director, Bioscience Growth Council