

September 6, 2016

Honorable Secretary of State John F. Kerry  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are writing on behalf of the below organizations to express our deep concern that policies that facilitate access to today's medicines and provide vital incentives (like standards and rules in trade agreements, and intellectual property protection) for the development of new treatments and cures may be at risk due to current United Nations initiatives.

Our organizations are committed to improving the health and quality of life of patients in the U.S. and around the world. The promise of future medical breakthroughs brings our patients hope that one day researchers will find a cure that allows them to lead longer, healthier and more productive lives.

We understand that innovative medicines change patient lives and directly address our global health challenges. We believe that the recent initiative by United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines (UNHLP) could lead to declining investments in R&D, and in turn deprive patients worldwide of critical advances and breakthroughs. The UNHLP's mandate expressly excludes from consideration the major health system challenges that hinder access to medicines, including lack of adequate healthcare infrastructure, weak supply chains and shortages of skilled healthcare professionals. All of these factors must be taken into account to deliver practical and truly sustainable solutions.

The United States, a country with one of the strongest and most robust IP protection regimes in the world, also leads the world in the development and launch of life saving medicines. These two factors are intrinsically linked. Given the significant cost and risks associated with developing innovative medicines, we must provide innovators with incentives that reward the cutting edge pharmaceutical research and discovery for which they are responsible. U.S. leadership will be essential to ensuring the future of innovative medicines. We also appreciate the State Department's submission to the UN High-Level Panel and encourage you to stay engaged and make sure the Panel's recommendations do not lead to harmful policy proposals.

We know that there are real barriers to access to innovative medicines worldwide, and we want our life sciences industry to continue to be a proactive partner in addressing these barriers with constructive solutions. For that reason and others, we urge you to help safeguard a global environment for life sciences that spurs innovation, including through IP protection. Decades of research and data analysis by health economists, public health experts, the life sciences industry and government departments have established the fact that strong IP protection is one of the best ways to promote access and ensure the continued development and deployment of innovative medicines here at home and globally.

Thank you for your time and attention to advancing human health and progress.

Sincerely,

Global Colon Cancer Association  
Action CF  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
Ames Chamber of Commerce  
BioBuzz Workforce Foundation  
BioNJ  
Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut  
Center for Healthcare Innovation  
Center for Healthcare Strategies  
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
Colorado Bioscience Association  
Colorado Competitive Council  
Community Access National Network  
Delaware HIV Consortium  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Diabetes Hands Foundation  
Economic Development Coalition of Southwest  
Indiana  
Elder Care Advocacy of Florida  
Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend  
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Global Alliance for Patient Access  
Global Pneumonia Prevention Coalition  
H.E.A.L.S of the South  
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)  
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network  
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Indiana Health Industry Forum

Kendall Square Association  
Life Science Washington  
Lupus Foundation of Florida  
Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives  
MassBio  
MedCara Pharmaceuticals  
Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation  
NAMI Wyoming  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Council for Behavioral Health  
National Association of County Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Disability Directors  
New England Bio  
NJ Mayors Committee on Life Sciences  
Pennsylvania Bio  
Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association  
SD Biotech  
StopAfib.org  
Texas association of Business  
Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute  
Texas Nurse Practitioners  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation  
Virginia Bio  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Hispanic Chamber  
Washington Council on International Trade  
Wellness and Education Community Action Health  
Network (WECAHN)  
Wyoming Epilepsy Association

CC: The President  
The White House

The Honorable Penny Pritzker  
Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative