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Rep. Ted Deutch
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Rep. David Jolly
Rep. Patrick Murphy
Rep. Tom Rooney
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Rep. Ted Yoho

Dear Florida Delegation:

We, the undersigned, are expressing our concerns with the Innovation Act/H.R.9.

As you know, the U.S. House of Representatives is considering patent legislation attempting to reduce patent system abuses. However, the bill will have unintended consequences and could deter investment in university research, U.S. companies, and other research and development in America. The Innovation Act/H.R.9, actually reduces protections for patent holders and could ultimately weaken U.S. patents overall.

As proud members of Florida's research based economy, we understand the importance of strong patent protections to our ability to continue to develop new innovative products and solutions for customers here and around the globe. Our strong patent system is the fuel for an economic engine that employs more than 2 million here in Florida.

For example, there are more than 9,000 clinical trials for new medicines supported by private industry, universities, and other organizations in Florida. Other industry sectors rely on patents as well such as the agriculture industry.

Companies, universities, and individual inventors rely on patents to attract investment to make, market, or license, the creation of their new, and by definition, useful, products. This is a cycle that allows them to reinvest in future R&D if not just cover their costs.

We are concerned that H.R.9 will hinder legitimate patent holder's ability to quickly resolve patent disputes. Any changes to the U.S. patent system should also take into account misuse of post grant review proceedings at the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). These proceedings unfairly increase the burden on patent holders when defending their patent.

We urge you to take all these concerns into account when considering H.R.9, and any other federal patent legislation.

Sincerely,

BioFlorida
Community Health Charities of Florida
Elder Care Advocacy of Florida
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Florida State University
HEALS of the South
Salud USA
University of Florida