



June 2, 2026

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Center for Medicine in the Public Interest is a nonpartisan research and educational nonprofit dedicated to advancing patient-centered health care. We are writing in advance of the Committee's June 4 hearing, "Medicines and IP: Balancing Innovation and Access" to express concern that proposals such as the ETHIC Act could unintentionally weaken the intellectual property framework that has helped make the United States the global leader in biopharmaceutical innovation.

As Congress considers potential changes to our patent system, it is important to recognize what has driven America's success in developing lifesaving medicines. Strong, reliable intellectual property protections create the conditions necessary for researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors to undertake the risks involved in biomedical discovery.

Those risks are significant. Developing a new medicine often requires more than a decade of research and billions of dollars in investment, yet the overwhelming majority of drug candidates never receive FDA approval. Companies pursue these efforts because the patent system provides the certainty needed to support long-term scientific research and investment.

The results speak for themselves. The United States has led the world in developing transformative treatments for cancer, cardiovascular disease, rare disorders, and countless other conditions. At the same time, this framework has helped produce a robust and competitive generic marketplace. Today, approximately 90% of prescriptions in the United States are filled with generics and biosimilars, demonstrating that innovation and competition are not mutually exclusive goals.

Unfortunately, discussions surrounding pharmaceutical patents often frame patents primarily as barriers to competition, rather than as the foundation that makes medical progress possible. Proposals such as the ETHIC Act would diminish patent protections and thus make biomedical investments more difficult to justify. The result could be reduced investment and slower development of future treatments and cures.

Patients ultimately have the most at stake. Every generic medicine available today began as an innovative therapy that required years of research, development, and investment. The medicines patients will depend on tomorrow -- including new treatments for cancer and Alzheimer's disease -- will similarly require a policy environment that rewards scientific discovery and long-term investment today.

These considerations are especially important as China continues to invest aggressively in biotechnology and seeks to challenge America's leadership in the life sciences. Congress should proceed carefully before adopting policies that could weaken one of our nation's most important competitive advantages.

We respectfully encourage the Committee to preserve the intellectual property framework that has helped make the United States the world's leader in medical innovation and to ensure that any reforms strengthen, rather than weaken, incentives to develop the next generation of medicines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Pitts", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Pitts
President and Co-Founder
Center for Medicine in the Public Interest