

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
Judiciary Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We represent a large and diverse cross-section of America's innovation economy practicing in a wide variety of industries—small businesses, entrepreneurial startups, trade associations, professional organizations, labor unions, universities, and large, well-established businesses—with employees and locations throughout the country. We are encouraged by your willingness and that of the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to meet and weigh the perspectives of many of us. We all have concerns about proposed legislation aimed at changing U.S. patent laws, and agree that the Senate should exercise great caution before moving any legislation that could weaken the constitutional protections afforded to patent holders or make patent rights less valuable or more difficult to enforce.

The U.S. patent system is a driving engine of our economy and a vital contributor to the nation's economic creativity and ingenuity. These rights have kept American inventors competitive internationally since the founding of our country, and they create countless jobs and significant prosperity every year. Weakening the protections of the patent system would surely result in the loss of America's creative, technological, and economic edge.

The America Invents Act was fully implemented less than a year ago, and its effect on our patent system has yet to be fully understood or appreciated. Congress should therefore be cautious before making additional changes to our patent laws. Any changes that are made should not undermine U.S. patents, their robust enforcement, or the existing economic incentives for companies of all sizes to invest in new jobs, research, and development. We encourage you to focus in future hearings on the many different aspects of the legislation and the broad spectrum of stakeholders who would be affected by it.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

AccessClosure Inc.  
ActivaTek  
ADM Tronics  
Allergan, Inc.  
Allison Transmission, Inc.  
American Council on Education  
Andover Healthcare Inc.  
Apertomed, LLC

Architecture Technology Corp. (ATC)  
Articulinx  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of University Technology Managers  
Audax Medical  
Autonomic Technologies, Inc.  
Beam Technologies  
Beaver-Visitec International, Inc.  
Bi-Level Technologies  
Biocom  
Biomet  
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)  
BrainScope Company, Inc.  
Brash Insight Corp.  
Cabochon, Inc.  
California Healthcare Institute (CHI)  
CardioMEMS, Inc.  
Cardiovascular Systems, Inc.  
Cayenne Medical  
Cerephex Corporation  
Cianna Medical, Inc.  
CitareTx Investment Partners  
CleanTECH San Diego  
Cleveland Medical Devices Inc.  
Cognionics, Inc.  
CONNECT  
Cotera, Inc.  
Covalent Medical Inc.  
Cummins Allison Corporation  
Cyberonics, Inc.  
Cygnus Broadband  
Direct Flow Medical, Inc.  
Dolby Laboratories, Inc.  
DR Systems, Inc.  
Dynatronics Corporation  
eCardio  
Education Systems  
ElitechGroup  
EndoChoice, Inc.  
EnteroMedics Inc.  
Entrepreneurs for Growth  
Entropic Communications, Inc.  
Exagen Diagnostics  
ExploraMed

ExploraMed Development, LLC  
ExploraMed IV, LLC  
ExploraMed NC6, Inc.  
Fallbrook Technologies Inc.  
Flat-D Innovations, Inc.  
Flocel Inc.  
ForSight Labs, LLC  
ForSight VISION4, Inc.  
ForSight VISION5, Inc.  
General Nanotechnology LLC  
Great Lakes NeuroTechnologies Inc.  
Healthcare Innovation Exchange  
HeartWare  
HeyWire, Inc.  
Holaira, Inc.  
IP Advocate  
Isomark, LLC  
Innovation Alliance (IA)  
Inogen Inc.  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.-USA (IEEE-USA)  
InterDigital, Inc.  
Iowa Inventors Group  
ItsOn, Inc.  
Karbonique, Inc.  
KBS Automist, LLC  
Kentucky Life Sciences Council  
Lauder Partners LLC  
Licensing Executives Society (U.S.A. and Canada), Inc.  
LifeScience Alley  
Lightstone Ventures  
Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)  
Megadyne  
MGC Diagnostics  
MH Systems, Inc.  
Microcube  
Miramar Labs, Inc., Sunnyvale, CA  
Morgenthaler Ventures  
National Association of Patent Practitioners  
National Small Business Association (NSBA)  
Neotract, Inc.  
NeuroPace  
NeuroWave Systems Inc.  
NEXIS Vision Inc.  
NinePoint Medical Inc.  
Nocimed  
NuVasive, Inc.

NxThera  
OL2, Inc. (Onlive)  
OmniGuide Inc.  
Orbital Research Inc.  
Patent Office Professional Association  
Percutaneous Systems, Inc.  
Personal Web Assistant Corporation  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)  
Pivot Medical  
Preceptis Medical, Inc.  
PTM Manufacturing, LLC  
Q Restaurant Group  
QUALCOMM, Inc.  
Reaction Biology Corporation  
Rearden Companies  
ResMed, Inc.  
Revent Medical, Inc.  
Royal Oak Medical Devices, LLC  
Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
SetPoint Medical, Inc.  
SI-Bone, Inc.  
Sipl Investments, LLC  
Sleepy, Inc.  
Smiths Medical  
Software Partners LLC  
Solace Therapeutics  
Spectranetics Corporation  
Spinal Kinetics, LLC  
SpinalMotion  
Spine Align Medical Inc.  
Spineology Inc.  
SuperCheapPromos  
Swan Valley Medical, Incorporated  
Teleflex Incorporated  
Tessera Technologies Inc.  
Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute  
Texas Life-Sciences Collaboration Center  
The Foundry, LLC  
Thermocure, Inc.  
Therox  
Transcend Medical, Inc.  
TriVascular Technologies, Inc.  
Twelve, Inc.  
Unbenchable.com  
United States Business and Industry Council

University of South Carolina  
Vector Surgical  
Vibrynt, Inc.  
Volcano Corporation  
Wenzel Spine, Inc.

cc: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee