



September 17, 2015

The Honorable Darrell Issa
2269 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Issa:

On behalf of California's innovative life sciences research and development community, we are writing to voice our disappointment in your recent remarks dismissing the very real and serious concerns of the life sciences companies, research universities, institutes, and venture capital firms in and around San Diego and across our state with regards to H.R. 9, the so-called Innovation Act, and the current state of the inter partes review (IPR) process.

As recently reported by Politico, you accused those who oppose H.R. 9 of spreading "misinformation," and stated that a narrowly-tailored IPR exemption would encourage "expensive, on-patent medicines that are, in fact, not new and innovative." These remarks seem to suggest a lack of understanding of the extraordinary value and complexity of life sciences innovation, as well as the fundamental importance that companies, and their investors, place on patents and the ability to protect and enforce them.

California's life sciences community is well-informed and deeply concerned by the documented abuses of the IPR system, which threaten future investment in innovation and ultimately the ability of patients to have access to breakthrough medicines and technologies. Indeed, more than 100 well-informed patient organizations recently wrote to Senate and House leaders calling for improvements to patent reform legislation that properly address current abuses in the IPR system.

In addition to developing life-saving treatments and therapies, California's biomedical sector is also an increasingly important element of our state's economy. California is the world leader in life sciences innovation, with over 2,500 companies employing nearly 300,000 Californians, paying over \$27 billion in annual salaries and wages and accounting for \$22 billion in global exports. As a representative of one of California's leading clusters of life sciences research and development, it is crucial to protect and promote these jobs and the innovation they generate, not discredit or dismiss our ecosystem's concerns.

To be successful, patent litigation legislation must appropriately and carefully balance the need to correct abusive 'patent troll' practices with the reliance of a full spectrum of industries and sectors on a well-functioning U.S. patent system and the enforcement mechanisms it provides. In its current form, H.R. 9 falls far short of that goal.

We will continue to engage with the California delegation and congressional leadership, along with our stakeholder biopharmaceutical, medical device, venture capital and university partners, patient groups and others to protect patent rights and oppose misguided legislation that would threaten the ability of life sciences innovators to defend and enforce their intellectual property, and put at risk the promise of future therapies and medical technologies that are the hope of patients in California, across our country and around the world.

Sincerely,



Sara Radcliffe
President & CEO
California Life Sciences Association
(CLSA)



Joe Panetta
President and CEO
Biocom