

URGENT PHONE BRIEFING:

PROPOSED PATENT BILL WOULD JEOPARDIZE HEALTH CARE AND HARM MEDICAL RESEARCH

Monday, June 3rd 2:30PM EST

On Monday, June 3rd the American Civil Liberties Union, Association for Molecular Pathology, Invitae and My Gene Counsel will hold a joint telephone briefing to discuss a recent legislative proposal that would reverse 150 years of court precedent—as well as three recent unanimous Supreme Court decisions—and allow corporations to patent genes.

The draft legislation would amend Section 101 of the Patent Act to permit the patenting of products and laws of nature, such as human genes, other naturally occurring matter and relationships, and abstract ideas. It would, in effect, pave the way for businesses to own exclusive rights to genes, giving them the right to prohibit all others from providing and developing genetic testing and pursuing research. By permitting patent-holders to dictate who can and cannot engage in genetic testing and research, this legislation will undermine patient access to genetic testing and targeted therapies and block the promise of precision medicine.

Sens. Coons and Tillis and Reps. Collins, Johnson, and Stivers recently released draft text of this bill. You can find a copy here: <https://www.coons.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sens-coons-and-tillis-and-reps-collins-johnson-and-stivers-release-draft-bill-text-to-reform-section-101-of-the-patent-act>.

Next week, the Senate Judiciary Intellectual Property Subcommittee, led by Sens. Tillis and Coons, will also hold a series of hearings on the draft legislation in an effort to rush through a deeply flawed bill to the floor. This briefing will provide background on why that would be a serious mistake for Congress.

Please join us on Monday to discuss the draft legislation and our concerns.

WHO: Open only to members of Congress and staff
WHEN: Monday, June 3, 2019
TIME: 2:30 – 3:30pm EST
DIAL-IN: 1-800-816-4134 / Access Code: 69922#
SPEAKERS:

Tara Burke, Senior Director, Association for Molecular Pathology
Lisbeth Ceriani, breast cancer survivor and patient advocate
Ellen Matloff, MS, CGC, President and CEO of My Gene Counsel
Robert Nussbaum, CMO of Invitae
Sandra Park, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU
Kate Ruane, Senior Legislative Counsel, ACLU

[Please RSVP Here](#)

For any questions or further information, please contact Kate Ruane (kruane@aclu.org).