



Conservatives
for
Property Rights

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Contact: Ryan Moy
rmoy@crcpublicrelations.com

Statement on Biden's Support for TRIPS Waiver

This statement about the Biden administration's decision to back a World Trade Organization motion to waive TRIPS Agreement protections for COVID-19-related intellectual property may be attributed to James Edwards, Executive Director, Conservatives for Property Rights:

"President Biden sows the wind by supporting an opportunistic plan at the WTO for expropriating COVID-related innovations. He will unleash upon our country the whirlwind.

"By freeing WTO countries from having to protect IP rights for things related to vaccines, Biden lets India, South Africa and other antiproperty rights nations steal U.S. and Western patented COVID inventions. The Biden administration threatens billions of private dollars of risk capital investment that's brought us to this pivotal point of biomedical innovation in the pandemic. The lost returns on investment defund R&D that leads to future breakthroughs, such as for future pandemics and antimicrobial-resistant superbugs. This unravels U.S. innovation infrastructure.

"Biden will force U.S. innovators to reap the whirlwind. At risk aren't just patents. This scheme approves and enables the expropriation of IP in all forms — copyrights, trade secrets, industrial designs, proprietary materials. Approval of this wholesale robbery of private inventions and related IP sets a destructive precedent. Sadly, Biden stands at odds with his bipartisan predecessors in advancing and respecting property rights around the globe. Once IP thieves rob us of the fruits of private U.S. COVID technologies, WTO antiproperty activists will extend this precedent to many other fields of technology. What's next? 5G? AI?

"The whirlwind Biden forces American innovators to reap puts their valuable, privately funded property in China's hands as China seeks to surpass America as the world's innovation leader. It arms China, Russia and other rogue nations with sensitive, crucial knowledge about mRNA technology that has lots of uses. The TRIPS waiver hands China the platform for creating high-quality, high-value biologic vaccines and therapies for many viruses and diseases. China can weaponize the WTO waiver to force tech transfer, abet Chinese biopharma and displace us.

"The TRIPS waiver jeopardizes U.S. economic and national security. It kills good jobs in a leading sector of our innovation economy. It creates jobs for adversaries we're trying to remain ahead of and competitive against — without putting one more shot in a poor-country citizen's arm or getting COVID vaccines to poor countries' citizens one minute faster."

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See Mr. Edwards's [Inside Sources](#) essay and his [blog post](#) on the WTO TRIPS waiver.