

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your leadership in advancing innovation and competition legislation. We urge you to keep the Inventor Diversity for Economic Advancement (IDEA) Act in the final bill. The IDEA Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would direct the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to collect inventors' demographic data on a voluntary basis and make this information available in the aggregate for research. Both chambers have now passed the IDEA Act as part of their innovation and competition bills, and we urge you to keep it in the final version sent to President Biden's desk.

USPTO and leading researchers have found that women, people of color, and lower-income Americans patent inventions at significantly lower rates than their representation in the population.

- Less than 13 percent of all inventors who hold a U.S. patent are women. Women hold only 5.5 percent of commercialized patents.
- Black and Hispanic college graduates patent at half the rate of White college graduates. Patenting activity by Black inventors peaked in 1899 and has not recovered.
- Children in families in the top one percent of income are ten times more likely to patent in their lifetimes than children in the entire bottom half of income.

Closing the patent gaps would quadruple the number of American inventors, increase annual U.S. GDP by almost \$1 trillion, and result in exciting new and different inventions.

We must measure what matters. Currently, the USPTO does not collect demographic data on inventors. Collecting this data is a crucial and necessary step toward strengthening our economy, maintaining U.S. global technological leadership, and building a more diverse and inclusive innovation ecosystem, complete with new inventors, new ideas, and new technologies.

Thank you for your leadership. Please keep the IDEA Act in your negotiated innovation and competition package so that we waste no time in addressing the patent diversity gaps and realizing the benefits of expanding participation in American invention and patenting.

Sincerely,

3M Company  
American Intellectual Property Law  
Association (AIPLA)  
AnitaB.org  
Association of American Universities  
(AAU)  
AUTM  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
(BIO)  
Biocom California  
Corning Inc.  
DivX, LLC  
Finjan Holdings, LLC  
Foresight Science and Technology Inc.  
FutureForward  
Innovation Council  
Innovation Partnerships at the University  
of Michigan  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
(IWPR)  
Intellectual Property Owners  
Association (IPO)

Interdigital  
Jackson State University  
Native American Intellectual Property  
Enterprise Council (NAIPEC)  
NJEdge Inc.  
Nokia  
Project Invent  
Qualcomm  
Social Equity Strategies  
Society of Women Engineers (SWE)  
Sonos, Inc.  
The Michelson Center for Public Policy  
University of Oregon  
University of Minnesota, Technology  
Commercialization  
UWM Research Foundation, Inc.  
WiLAN Labs  
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation  
(WARF)  
Women in Engineering ProActive  
Network (WEPAN)  
VentureWell

Cc:

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary

