



September 27, 2022

The Honorable Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Cicilline
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Langevin
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Reed & Whitehouse and Congressmen Cicilline & Langevin:

RI Bio has serious concerns regarding any form of expansion of the WTO TRIPS waiver to COVID-19 therapeutics or diagnostics. Support for an intellectual property (IP) waiver would send U.S.-developed innovative technologies and biomanufacturing jobs overseas; and consequently, weaken the ability for U.S. biotech firms, including the hundreds of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in the development of COVID-19 therapeutics, to compete globally and grow jobs domestically.

RI Bio's primary goal is the growth and advancement of Rhode Island's life sciences industry. The key drivers of Rhode Island's bioscience sector growth are bioscience research and development and the creation of innovative intellectual property. Without the strong IP protections provided by TRIPS, modern medical innovation, including vaccines and therapies to combat COVID-19, would be significantly stymied and many of the treatments and cures benefitting patients would not exist.

As an alternative to the Geneva-driven WTO TRIPS waiver discussion, we encourage that the Administration consider and propose other potential options that more concretely address genuine public health concerns that would improve the management of COVID-19 and, consequently, the health of vulnerable populations around the world.

We strongly urge you to oppose expansion of the TRIPs waiver. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,


Executive Director