



JOHN CONRAD  
PRESIDENT & CEO

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To the Honorable Representative Schneider,

The Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization in Chicago is writing to you today to express our concern over the possibility of the World Trade Organization's TRIPS waiver being expanded to include COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics.

The main reason for our concern is that this measure would severely undermine the United States leadership in biopharmaceuticals and cede much of our IP to foreign countries, sending jobs in manufacturing overseas. As an organization that represents 85,000 life sciences employees at member companies, universities, service providers and venture firms, we care deeply about the biopharmaceutical workforce across the state of Illinois.

Illinois ranks 9th in supporting jobs in the biopharmaceutical industry and other supporting sectors and expanding this waiver would affect over 20,000 jobs. We are concerned that expanding the TRIPS waiver would setback the Biden Administrations goal of creating more domestic manufacturing jobs in the United States, as set in motion in his Inflation Reduction Act.

It is counterproductive to hand over American innovations to countries looking to undermine our leadership in biomedical discovery if we truly want to see American infrastructure be further built up.

We appreciate your past work to bring home manufacturing jobs in addition to your commitment to make America a global leader. We hope those same principles will be applied to this pressing issue and that you will oppose expanding the WTO's TRIPS waiver.

Sincerely,

John Conrad,  
President and CEO of the Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization in Chicago.