

30 June 2017

The Honorable Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

We write regarding your [joint letter of June 23, 2017](#) with Senator Hatch and Representatives Brady and Neal to President Trump, in which you urge the President to address concerns regarding India's intellectual property rights policies.

In that letter, you specifically mention pharmaceutical patents amidst discussion of "India's weak standards," and cite a 2014 U.S. International Trade Commission report calling for India's standards for IP protection to be made comparable to U.S. and Western European levels. We are surprised and dismayed that you are pressuring India to grant additional patents on drugs and vaccines.

In 2015, the income per capita was \$1,590 USD in India, and \$55,980 — more than 35 times higher — in the United States. A country with as much poverty as India should not enforce patents on drugs and vaccines the same way as high-income industrialized countries. Moreover, India is the most important source of low cost drugs in the world, and a critically important source of affordable generic products in many developed and developing countries.

The practical effect of the type of trade pressures you advocate is to enhance the monopoly power and raise the prices of new drugs for cancer and many other diseases. This is appalling.

Sincerely,

Ann Pickar, Founder, Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition, Portland, Oregon, Chair, Africa Connections, First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, USA
Christa Sprinkle, Portland, Oregon, USA
Dashiell Love, Newport, Oregon

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Dr. Mira Shiva, New Delhi, India
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Global Health Justice Partnership, Initiative of Yale Law School & Yale School of Public Health
Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
Public Citizen
Social Security Works
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Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM)

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