# **I Negate the Resolution, The member nations of the World Trade Organization ought to reduce intellectual property protections for medicines.**

## **NEG**

**My value is morality for two reasons:**

1. **The resolution’s use of the word “ought” implies a moral obligation**
2. **Morality allows us to perceive what is inherently good or bad. It is the value upon which we can conceptualize all other values, thus it must be prioritized.**

**My Value Criterion is maximising global well being.**

**An IP waiver would stunt the growth of newer and more improved COVID-19 vaccines.**

**Daniel J. Staudt, 6-15-2021, "Waiving IP Rights: The Wrong Path to the Right Goals," IPWatchdog,** [**https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2021/06/15/waiving-ip-rights-the-wrong-path-to-the-right-goals/id=134546/**](https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2021/06/15/waiving-ip-rights-the-wrong-path-to-the-right-goals/id=134546/)

**In terms of ending the pandemic as soon as possible, the Washington Post got it right in its May 4 editorial when it stated, “Sharing doses and know-how is better than stripping patents.” It is noteworthy that, during this global debate over whether IP protections should be waived, there have been no instances identified where IP has been used to limit access to vaccines or other COVID-related technologies. In contrast, there are many examples of innovator companies from a wide array of industries who have partnered and shared IP to create testing, vaccines, and therapies to address this pandemic. In fact, IP has enabled this innovation and facilitated this collaboration by providing the incentives that have enabled innovators to devote the resources, technical knowledge, and know-how necessary to counter the pandemic. As a result, our innovative industries have been able to create vaccines and other measures to fight the pandemic. Should an IP waiver be implemented, however, there would not be a stable framework in place to provide confidence to innovators that they can take the necessary risks associated with their inventions and creations as we continue to combat COVID-19. In fact, a waiver would have an immediate chilling effect on continued research and collaborations that are needed, for example, to overcome new variants of the virus, create vaccines for special populations, and develop new tools to help defeat the pandemic and for future vaccine development for other infectious diseases.**

**Therefore, by wavering IP Rights, we will hurt future public and global well-being.**

**Con. 1: Wavering would not help distribution**

**Reducing patent protections won't be enough to globally distribute vaccines everywhere.**

**Damian Garde , Helen Branswell and Matthew Herper. May 6, 2021, "Waiver of patent rights on Covid vaccines may be mostly symbolic, for now," STAT,** [**https://www.statnews.com/2021/05/06/waiver-of-patent-rights-on-covid-19-vaccines-in-near-term-may-be-more-symbolic-than-substantive/**](https://www.statnews.com/2021/05/06/waiver-of-patent-rights-on-covid-19-vaccines-in-near-term-may-be-more-symbolic-than-substantive/)

**In a statement last October, Moderna announced that they will not enforce their COVID-19-related patents against those who will make vaccines during this pandemic. While waiving some vaccine patents may allow third-party manufacturers to make and sell COVID-19 vaccines, the transfer of skills and technology that will allow them to manage production isn't very simple. For instance, a spokesperson for Pfizer said that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine required 280 different components sourced from 86 suppliers across various countries. Manufacturing the vaccine would require highly specialized equipment and complex technology transfers. “Technology transfer also would need to be a critical component to expand vaccine manufacturing by other companies as an IP waiver is insufficient to provide the ‘know how’ needed to manufacture mRNA or adenovirus-vectored COVID-19 vaccines,” Moss says. “And supply chains for the reagents, supplies, and equipment would be needed.” Interested manufacturers would need to have the proper equipment to test the quality and consistency of their manufacturing. At present, the World Health Organization (WHO) has plans to facilitate the establishment of technology hubs to transfer "a comprehensive technology package and provide appropriate training" to manufacturers from lower- and middle-income countries. While waiving vaccine patents is necessary, it's likely not enough. Additionally, negotiations about it are still ongoing. Even though the U.S. supports the waiver of COVID-19 vaccine patents, other countries like the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany oppose it.**

**Low-and-middle income countries still would not have access to vaccines, even if we waiver IP Rights**

**Monica de Bolle, 5-12-2021, "Waiving patent and intellectual property protections is not a panacea for global vaccine distribution,"** [**https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/waiving-patent-and-intellectual-property-protections-not**](https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/waiving-patent-and-intellectual-property-protections-not)

**The Biden administration's decision in early May 2021 to support temporary waivers of intellectual property rights (IPRs) on COVID-19 vaccines produced by the world's largest pharmaceutical companies is a welcome step intended to help countries with low access to vaccines. Unfortunately, however, the waivers by themselves will do little to aid global vaccination in the near term. In fact, these actions could be counterproductive if governments become complacent and fail to finance and organize vaccine supply chains worldwide, without which vaccines will not get to those who need them. As the pandemic has exploded in India and fears for Africa have intensified, the pressure on the United States, the European Union, and other advanced vaccine-producing countries to relax IP protections in World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements has intensified. Policymakers have also increasingly understood that no one is safe from COVID-19 until everyone is safe. Led by India and South Africa, the developing world has been arguing on moral and practical grounds that IP waivers are essential to accelerating vaccine distribution and containing the pandemic worldwide. Absent widespread vaccination in less prosperous countries, experts say, all countries, even those with high vaccination rates, would remain vulnerable. But IP waivers alone will not necessarily accomplish that goal. Among the obstacles to getting wide distribution of vaccines are bureaucratic hurdles within the WTO, the difficulty for many poor countries of producing vaccines even if they have the legal right to do so, and the fact that vaccine production depends on global supply chains that cannot quickly be mobilized to deliver shots to low- and middle-income countries.**

**Wavering IP Rights is pointless because it would not benefit the people the aff is trying to help.**

**Katherine Pia, 6-23-2021, "Waiver of Intellectual Property Rights on COVID-19 vaccine roll out," OUP Academic,** [**https://academic.oup.com/jpubhealth/advance-article/doi/10.1093/pubmed/fdab245/6308517**](https://academic.oup.com/jpubhealth/advance-article/doi/10.1093/pubmed/fdab245/6308517)

**An IP system is designated to provide incentives for the creativity and innovations that are beneficial for the society. These motivate creators and innovators to discover and develop new products or technologies and at the same time foster economic growth and enhancement of quality of life. If a waiver of this right would be given, it will deprive them of their incentives and ‘there would be less knowledge and thus less innovations’. This will have an effect in the pharmaceutical sectors hindering them to progress in the field of research and development as well as innovations. This could even discourage them from allocating their resources in producing next-generation vaccines. Assuming that a waiver would be issued, this will not automatically lead to the sufficient increase of production of COVID-19 vaccine. There are infrastructures, supply chains and production capabilities that still have to be ironed out before a manufacturing laboratory for COVID-19 vaccine can be established in a specific country. With the amount of money to be spent on the construction, even with the approval of the waiver, only a handful could benefit. In the end, most would still rely on imported vaccine supply. IP rights which are protected by laws and agreements should not be disregarded in the desire to create a better, post-pandemic society. Waiving these rights may appear to be a good solution but is not necessary.**

**Con. 2: Environment**

**Patents play a key role in achieving a sustainable environment.**

**Center for International Environmental Law, et. al. 2021, "Intellectual Property and the Environment,"** [**https://www.ciel.org/issue/intellectual-property/**](https://www.ciel.org/issue/intellectual-property/)

**Innovation policies, together with environmental laws, play a key role in addressing many global environmental issues. Intellectual property rights, as temporary privileges over the products of intellectual activity, determine who controls information and technology. Intellectual property rules fundamentally affect the quality and availability of innovative ideas and products, and are therefore extremely important in achieving sustainable development, ensuring human health, and protecting the environment. The level and scope of intellectual property protection influences the flow of technologies between industrialized and developing countries. These standards also impact the control communities have over their traditional knowledge, their access to medicines and education, as well as other such issues fundamental to sustainable development.**

**If climate change were to spiral out of control, every human would be severely affected, especially minorities.**

**David Introcaso, 12-19-2018, "Climate Change Is The Greatest Threat To Human Health In History," No Publication,** [**https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20181218.278288/full/**](https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20181218.278288/full/)

**In early October the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's definitive scientific body on the topic, published, “Global Warming of 1.5C.” Over 90 scientists from 40 countries reviewing 6,000 studies prepared the IPCC report in response to a 2015 Paris climate accord request. Its purpose was to discriminate between the effects of global warming at 1.5°C (2.7°F) versus 2.0°C (3.6°F). The Paris accord called for holding warming below 2.0°C while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. For example, should temperatures increase to 1.5°C, the report found of 105,000 species studied, four percent of vertebrates, six percent of insects and eight percent of plants would lose half of their climatically-determined geographic range. At 2°C the percent would double to triple. At 1.5°C we will lose 70 to 90 percent of coral reefs, at 2°C there will be a 99 percent loss. While health has always been affected by climate and weather, it is the change in climate and climate variability, particularly changes in weather extremes, that is a significant threat to human health. Again, absent dramatic and near term changes in political will, temperatures are expected to increase by 4°C by the end of this century. What do increasing temperatures mean for human health? (Readers should note that unless otherwise indicated statistics cited below come from the Obama Administration’s 2016 report.) The climate penalty is also the cause of a long list of mental and behavioral health conditions ranging from anxiety, depression and alcohol and substance abuse to post-traumatic stress and suicide. For example, following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, veterans with preexisting mental illness had nearly a seven times greater risk for developing an additional mental illness. Suicide attempts after Katrina among women living in temporary housing increased 15 times compared to regional averages, and incidences of violent crime including homicide and violence against women increased substantially. Finally, there are any number of additional or cascading climate change-related health consequences that disproportionately affect pregnant women, children, the elderly and disabled, minorities and the poor. Vulnerability is a function of sensitivity to change and adaptive capacity to adjust or cope. The elderly are particularly vulnerable since they are frequently immuno-compromised, are prescribed certain medications that limit thermo-regulation or block nerve impulses and a significant percent are cognitively impaired and/or socially isolated. It is not surprising to learn half of Katrina deaths were among people over 75 and African American mortality was two to four times higher than for whites. Keep in mind that from 2015 to 2050 the US population age 65 and older will nearly double from 48 to 88 million.**

**By protecting IP Rights we allow for future innovation in development to counteract the climate crisis going on globally.**

**Álvaro Ramos, 11-27-2014, "Intellectual Property: A Helpful Tool for the Environment," ClarkeModet,** [**https://www.clarkemodet.com/en/news-posts/intellectual-property-a-helpful-tool-for-the-environment/**](https://www.clarkemodet.com/en/news-posts/intellectual-property-a-helpful-tool-for-the-environment/)

**Intellectual Property is emerging as one of the most useful tools for slowing climate change for being directly related to the creation of new technologies. Investment, protection, marketing, distribution or licensing of these technologies added to clean techniques are critical for mitigating global warming and yet a large area of economic opportunities for the private sector. In the words of Francis Gurry, General director of the World Intellectual Property Organization president (WIPO) “Green innovation – the development and diffusion of technological means to tackle climate change – is key to halting the depletion of the earth’s resources. The race is on to develop accessible alternative sources of energy, as we work to harness the wind and tides, capture the power of the sun, and tap the geothermal energy underground. New plant varieties are being developed to withstand drought and flooding. New environmentally friendly materials will help us construct a more sustainable world.”**