

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2021

Her Excellency Emily Haber
The Ambassador of Germany
4645 Reservoir Road,
NW, Washington, DC
20007

Dear Ambassador Haber,

With third waves of COVID-19 raging in many parts of the world and increasingly threatening variants emerging, we are writing about the importance of the world agreeing to a temporary waiver of certain World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS) terms. We are troubled by the European Union's continuing opposition to this initiative, which we understand is a position led by Germany within the EU. The United States and almost every other WTO member seeks to enact a COVID emergency temporary TRIPS waiver as quickly as possible. In advance of/when Chancellor Merkel is in DC the July 15 summit with President Biden, we respectfully request an opportunity to meet with her to discuss the urgency of Germany ending its blockade against adoption of a waiver.

Scaling up much greater production of mRNA vaccines is necessary to save millions of lives and livelihoods. Thanks to IP barriers, it is the U.S. and German firms that have the only approved COVID-19 mRNA vaccines that hold the monopoly power to decide if this scale-up will occur. This summit will decide the fate of tens of millions of people.

Chancellor Merkel joining President Biden in supporting the waiver would lock in her legacy worldwide and that of Germany as heroes taking extraordinary efforts to protect people worldwide from the worst health threat in 100 years. Chancellor Merkel's failure to do so, and thus putting industry IP monopolies as a priority over people, will also be understood globally if that is the outcome.

We were heartened when U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced that to save lives and act to end the pandemic, the Biden-Harris Administration supported a TRIPS waiver. She rightly described this as part of an extraordinary response to the extraordinary threat posed by COVID-19. We saw this as evidence of America's return to the global stage, perhaps ushering in a new progressive era.

We consider a TRIPS waiver to be an essential step to the necessary scale-up of COVID-19 vaccine and medicine production. World class pharmaceutical manufacturers in developing nations, Israel, Canada and elsewhere seek to manufacture COVID-19 vaccines and could expand global supply. But firms that have monopoly control of production are unwilling to grant IP permissions or make technology transfer deals.

As Members of Congress concerned by threats to democracy here and throughout the world, we are grateful for the role that Germany, in particular Chancellor Merkel, played during the past four years in defense of democracy. On the world stage, Chancellor Merkel made us proud, and we are indebted to her steadfastness.

We request that you please convey our views to Chancellor Merkel and hope to meet with her to discuss this important issue as soon as possible. We respectfully request a response no later than the morning of July 15, 2021.

Sincerely,



JAN SCHAKOWSKY

Member of Congress



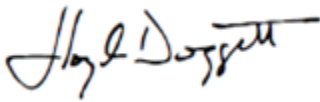
EARL BLUMENAUER

Member of Congress



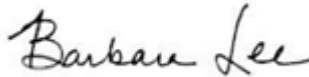
ROSAL. DELAURO

Member of Congress



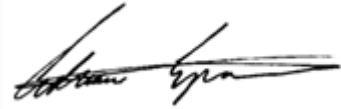
LLOYD DOGGETT

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