

THE AMERICA INVENTS ACT

PROMOTING AMERICAN INNOVATION, CREATING AMERICAN JOBS, GROWING AMERICA'S ECONOMY

The America Invents Act is bipartisan legislation that unleashes innovation and creates jobs – without adding a penny to the deficit.

What Senators Are Saying About The America Invents Act

“We can help unleash innovation and promote American invention, all without adding a penny to the deficit...Innovation drives the Nation’s economy, and that entrepreneurial spirit can only be protected by a patent system that promotes invention and spurs new ideas. We need to reform our patent system so that these innovations can more quickly get to market. **A modernized patent system—one that puts American entrepreneurs on the same playing field as those throughout the world—is a key to that success.** This is an idea that cuts across the political spectrum...Innovation and economic development are not uniquely Democratic or Republican objectives, so we worked together to find the proper balance for America, for our economy, for our inventors, for our consumers.” – *Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Senate Floor, February 28, 2011*

“For me, it is pretty simple. Patent reform is more than words on paper. It is about jobs and the positive impact they have on our economy...While we debate this important legislation, it is crucial that we keep the creation of jobs and economic prosperity at the forefront of our thoughts. After all, **patents encourage technological advancement by providing incentives to invent, to invest in, and to disclose new technology...** During consideration of the America Invents Act, I encourage my colleagues to be mindful that legislation is rarely without its imperfections, and we have a tremendous chance to take much needed action. To those who believe otherwise, rest assured my intent is to do no harm. But I want the legislative process to move forward. It is long overdue.” – *Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Senate Floor, February 28, 2011*

“**An effective and efficient patent system will help promote innovation and technological advancement in America and make life better for us all.** An effective and efficient patent system also will help provide stimulus for businesses and obviously generate many new jobs. Everyone agrees we need a well-functioning patent and trademark office within our government so that it can complete its work in a timely manner...the America Invents Act will protect inventors' rights and encourage innovation and investment in our economy... I am pleased to support this hard fought bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.” – *Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Senate Floor, February 28, 2011*

“[I]t’s my hope that after the Senate has fully considered this legislation, that we will be able to pass it with a strong voice of support here in the Senate, where then we can work with our House colleagues and try for the first time in many, many years to reform what really is the foundation for America’s success. We are a people who are involved in inventing things, and people around the world copy what we do, but our great strength is our ability to invent. We have to have a rule of law that codifies those inventions and that enables protection of the law for people who have invented them so that the investments that have been made can be returned to the people who did the inventing and investing. **And I think in this patent bill, we have achieved that sort of sweet spot, as it were, with yet thousands of interests weighing in on different aspects of this.**” – *Senator Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), Senate Floor, March 1, 2011*

“The truth is that America can no longer afford to be a country that churns money and shuffles papers, a country that consumes, imports and spends its way to huge trade deficits. What we need to be now is a nation that makes things again, that invents stuff, that exports to the world...**This bill is a necessary step to ensure that the United States remains a world leader in developing innovative products that bring prosperity and happiness to those in our country.** Globalization and technical advancements have changed our economy. This legislation will ensure that our patent system truly rewards innovation in the 21st century. Our patent system has to be as sophisticated as those that are

inventing these products and also those who at times are trying to steal their ideas. That's what this is about.” – *Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Senate Floor, March 1, 2011*

“The America Invents Act, also known as the patent reform bill, has been pending for many years and has been the subject of extensive debate, negotiation, and revisions. In its current draft, **it does much-needed good to help protect the American innovation economy, by updating and modernizing our patent system.**” – *Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Senate Floor, March 1, 2011*

“I am a supporter of this legislation, the patent reform bill.” – *Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah), Senate Floor, February 28, 2011*

“Innovation will be the key to igniting the American manufacturing sector...The America Invents Act reflects years of hard-fought negotiations between affected stakeholders. At a time when bipartisanship in the Senate is too frequently a platitude rather than actual progress, it should be noted the America Invents Act shares wide bipartisan support. Senators from both parties have worked together on the bill that we consider today and both sides of the aisle should be proud of what is being accomplished.” – *Senator Christopher Coons (D-Del.), Senate Floor, March 1, 2011*

Background on The America Invents Act

The America Invents Act was introduced in the Senate on [January 25, 2011](#), by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa). The legislation is cosponsored by Senators Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), Christopher Coons (D-Del.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.). **The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the legislation by a 15-0 vote on February 3, 2011.** Congressional efforts to reform the nation’s patent system first began in 2005. The Senate Judiciary Committee has reported patent reform legislation to the full Senate in each of the last three Congresses. On March 1, the Senate voted 97-2 to adopt a [managers’ amendment](#) to the legislation.