

## THE AMERICA INVENTS ACT

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

*The America Invents Act of 2011 is bipartisan legislation that unleashes innovation and creates jobs – without adding a penny to the deficit.*

### Update: Senate Votes To Invoke Cloture On America Invents Act

*On Monday, March 7, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to move to bring debate to a close on the America Invents Act. The vote, 87-3, signaled strong support for the legislation, which would make the first reforms to the nation's patent system in nearly six decades. The bill will improve patent quality and help to reduce backlogs of pending applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and importantly, transition the nation to a first-inventor-to-file system.*

### The New York Times: "America Invents Act Is Smart Reform"

"The [America Invents Act] will also replace the first-to-invent standard prevailing in the United States – which grants formal protection to the creator of an innovation – with the first-inventor-to-file system used in most nations. This change would make it cheaper for American patent holders to get patent protection around the world. But it has been met with vocal opposition from some groups of small businesses and inventors who claim the change would benefit big corporations at their expense. We disagree. The new law would make the process simpler and cheaper. That should benefit the little guy...**The patent system is too cumbersome, and it doesn't protect the small inventor. The America Invents Act is a smart reform.**" – The New York Times, "[Patents, Reform and the Little Guy](#)," March 8, 2011

### Goolsbee: "Patents Are Key"

"With so many applications and so few resources, mistakes can get through...Mistaken patents can gum up the legal system for years. They can cost millions of dollars and slow down innovation. **So we've got to improve this system significantly...Patents are key...**We've talked about a whole lot of ways we're going to win the future. We've got the greatest inventors in the world and it's time we give them the help they need to bring the country where it needs to be." – *Austan Goolsbee, Chairman, White House Council of Economic Advisors, [White Board Presentation](#), March 7, 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.