

From: [Inventors Association](#)
To: [successact](#)
Subject: Public Hearing for Success Act
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Hello,

My name is Laura Myers and I am one of the female leaders in our country at the helm of a non-profit inventors organization called the Inventors Association of Arizona (IAA). Our organization consists of 100+ paid memberships with a newsletter reach to over 1200 inventors in our state. A large part of my responsibility as the Executive Director of the IAA is to help inventors navigate the difficult path of bringing an idea to fruition, including guiding them through the patenting process so the invented product is protected once it reaches the market.

My concern is that the patent system in our country has been weakened by a series of legislative actions and court decisions over the past decade. Consequently, the enforceability of protecting a patented product has been weakened. Independent inventors risk thousands of dollars in developing and patenting their products only to find that the greatest liability is to have a product reach success in the marketplace. Under our current weakened patent system, large corporations with deep pockets and teams of attorneys can easily infringe on a small, independent inventor's product, swamping the inventor with litigation costs and extreme financial stress in trying to protect their own USPTO issued patent. If the enforceability of a United States patent is not strengthened, the cost of trying to protect a product may end up destroying the lives of the very people who the SUCCESS Act is attempting to help.

The USPTO must take a closer look at how PTAB is being exploited by large infringing companies. With their deep pockets and high-level attorney teams, large infringing corporations are utilizing PTAB as a convenient and useful tool to invalidate the claims of small, independent inventor's patents. The independent inventor does not have the finances to hire high power lawyers to fight back, thus making the patent they worked so hard to obtain useless to them. The USPTO issued patent means nothing if the promised protection is not enforced. To complicate matters further, investors are hesitating to invest in and fund innovation built on patented products of the small, independent inventors due to the high PTAB invalidation rates. The recommended legislation will not help women, minorities, or veterans if it does not come with PTAB reform as well.

Our country was built on innovation by hard working individuals who were promised and given protection of their products to build companies, expand on their ideas and enjoy the prosperity they earned. All that has changed by PTAB being exploited and used as a power tool by large corporations. Many innovators are now choosing to get their patents issued in China where the patent system is stronger and better protects the small inventor. A US patent

no longer provides value to its owner. Instead, it has become a liability.

Patent protection is a topic of great interest and lively discussion with the Inventors Association of Arizona. We appreciate the intention behind the SUCCESS Act, but we cannot stress enough the importance of increased protection for independent inventors. Without substantial reform to the patent system, the women, minorities, and veterans attaining patents as a result of legislation following the SUCCESS Act will be ruined by the hidden costs, false promises, and lack of enforceability of a US patent.

Sincerely,

Laura Myers
Executive Director
Inventor's Association of Arizona