

The Taxpayer Research and Coronavirus Knowledge (TRACK) Act *Introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)*

Since the start of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Congress has provided nearly \$8 billion for the research and development of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent at least \$700 million on coronavirus research prior to the pandemic, and some of the drugs currently being explored as COVID-19 treatments and vaccines received prior federal investments, including Gilead's treatment remdesivir and Moderna's vaccine candidate.

Public information regarding where taxpayer dollars are going for pharmaceutical research and development is scattered, difficult to access, and incomplete. It is even more difficult to determine when the federal government has ownership over any of the drug patents. The *TRACK Act of 2020* would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to compile information relating to taxpayer investments for biomedical research and development associated with the COVID-19 pandemic into a searchable public database.

The database would be publicly available on the HHS website and include:

- The agency, program, institute, or other federal government entity providing the federal support;
- Recipients, amounts, timeline, and itemized expenditure breakdown, including prior and ongoing funding commitments for research, development, and manufacturing;
- Non-financial support, including use of government facilities, equipment, and personnel;
- Associated clinical trial data, upon trial completion;
- Associated patents and patent applications, including any federal ownership, expiration date of patents and filing dates of patent application, and the number of patents and applications;
- Associated tax benefits under the R&D and orphan drug credits, as well as tax benefits for donated samples to patient assistance programs;
- The name, price, and current and anticipated manufacturing capacity to produce a drug (including biological products), cell or gene therapy, or medical device intended to be manufactured, used, designed, developed, modified, repurposed, licensed, or procured to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19 that receives federal support; and
- Full terms of the contract, funding agreement, licensing arrangement, transaction, or other arrangement made between the federal government and a manufacturer.

The TRACK Act is endorsed by AARP, Public Citizen, Patients for Affordable Drugs, Health Care Voter, Families USA, Niskanen Center, Indivisible, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Center for Medicare Advocacy, United Auto Workers, American Federation of Teachers, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Alliance for Retired Americans, Project on Government Oversight, MomsRising, Oxfam, Lower Drug Prices Now, Communication Workers of America, Consumer Action, Young Invincibles, Good Jobs First, Americans for Tax Fairness, Social Security Works, National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), Hero Action Fund, Treatment Action Group, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, American Medical Student Association, People's Action, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Consumers' Checkbook, CASA in Action, Hispanic Federation, American Muslim Health Professionals, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (U.S. Provinces), Public Advocacy for Kids, Communities United, Coalition on Human Needs, ACT UP Philadelphia, Equality North Carolina, and Right to Health: Pandemic Prevention Project.

To endorse, cosponsor, or learn more about this legislation please contact Elvia Montoya (Elvia_Montoya@merkley.senate.gov) on Senator Merkley's staff and Reily Inman (Reily_Inman@braun.senate.gov) on Senator Braun's staff.