

*The Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act* targets an issue that does not exist: so-called “patent thickets.” Advocates for the bill claim that multiple patents covering a single product delay generic market entry.

The truth is that many distinct and novel innovations go into making a single product. Patents can cover different, but equally essential, parts of an invention. Like in your smartphones! Or, consider a drug: its ingredients, how it’s taken, and the optimal dosage to reduce side effects for patients are all unique innovative components that patents incentivize and protect.



A recent USPTO study found that there is no correlation between the number of patents on a drug and the timing of generic entry. In fact, the study found that generics enter the market anywhere from 3 to 16 years following FDA approval — well before the standard 20-year patent term expires.



Lowering the cost of medication is a worthy goal. But undermining the patent system that drives innovation in new treatments and products is not the right solution.