

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

3/17/2021

RESOLUTION 2022.1

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to global vaccine equity

WHEREAS, public health experts have been warning since the start of the pandemic that Americans will not be safe from new COVID variants until vaccines, diagnostic tools and treatments are readily available throughout the world. Yet, heading into our third year of the crisis, roughly 90% of people in low-income nations still haven't received even a single vaccine dose; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant that was first detected in India and increased COVID-19 deaths worldwide, making children dangerously ill and reversing progress in containing COVID-19, shows why "no one is safe until everyone is safe"; and

WHEREAS, new variants may prolong the COVID-19 crisis, and the next variant could be the mutation that makes COVID-19 vaccines ineffective and causes untold harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the only way to end the pandemic and safeguard Americans' health and economic security is for the United States Government to deliver on President Biden's pledge to save lives worldwide by leading the global COVID-19 vaccination effort, including by specifically achieving the President's goal of 70 percent global COVID-19 vaccination by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2022; and

WHEREAS, a major cause of the shortage is monopoly control of how much and where COVID-19 vaccines are made by a handful of pharmaceutical corporations that have consolidated their control using intellectual property barriers; and

WHEREAS, voluntary licensing arrangements have not fixed this problem given the handful of pharmaceutical corporations that are using intellectual property monopolies to limit production and supply, and have refused to negotiate payment terms with qualified manufacturers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia creating production bottlenecks and thwarting production of COVID-19 vaccine doses around the world; and

WHEREAS, people around the globe cheered when, on May 5 2021, President Biden announced United States support for the temporary waiver of some World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) rules; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Biden-Harris administration announcing support for a temporary COVID-19 emergency waiver of WTO intellectual property barriers, now more than 130 nations support a waiver of WTO intellectual property monopolies for pharmaceutical corporations; and

WHEREAS, to most quickly translate the lifting of TRIPS-imposed intellectual property barriers into billions of COVID-19 vaccine shots in arms, the United States must leverage the public investment in research, development, and prepurchase of COVID-19 vaccines and exercise its existing rights and authorities to require the COVID-19 vaccine monopoly firms to share recipes via speedy technology transfer; and

WHEREAS, vaccine experts have identified more than 100 companies around the world with mRNA manufacturing potential;¹ and

WHEREAS, [House Concurrent Resolution 60](#) (H. Con. Res. 60), introduced on November 9, 2021 by Rep. Janice Schakowsky, with Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio as cosponsors, outlines six steps that they urge the Biden administration to take to help end the pandemic now; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch and Doctors Without Borders have, in an open letter to Mary Beth Goodman, Acting Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security at the Department of State,² have called for similar actions by the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2022, the second anniversary of WHO declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic, 130 current and former world leaders, Nobel laureates, scientists, and humanitarians published [an open letter](#) expressing essentially the same message and calling for the same actions as H. Con. Res. 60;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: That we thank Rep. DeFazio for becoming a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 60; and

SECTION 2: That we join with Reps. Schakowsky, DeFazio, Blumenauer, and others in urging the Biden administration to take the six steps outlined in H. Con. Res. 60.

¹ <https://accessibsa.org/mrna/>

² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/15/us-should-transfer-technology-covid-19-vaccines#>

The six steps called for in House Concurrent Resolution 60

- (1) United States and European governments should unite to enact a World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver, require technology transfer, and otherwise facilitate access in low- and middle-income countries to high-quality COVID–19 mRNA vaccines;
- (2) vital United States partners, with shared values who also prioritize global cooperation and saving lives and livelihoods worldwide, should unite to remove all obstacles to global access to COVID–19 vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, oxygen, and other medical products to advance the common goal of quickly ending the COVID–19 pandemic;
- (3) the United States Government should play its indispensable leadership role to work with South Africa and other nations to quickly finalize a WTO TRIPS waiver, overcome the opposition now blocking the 130 nations that support a waiver, and secure swift adoption of a temporary COVID–19 waiver of the patent, copyright, industrial design, and undisclosed data provisions of the WTO TRIPS Agreement with respect to COVID–19 vaccines, treatments, diagnostic tests, and other medical products to prevent, contain, or treat COVID–19 and the inputs and equipment to make such medical products, so that WTO rules no longer thwart others countries' wider production of COVID–19 medicines;
- (4) the United States Government should leverage its massive taxpayer investments in COVID–19 vaccine development and use existing legal authorities under the Defense Production Act, Bayh-Dole Act, and section 1498 of title 28, United States Code, to compel COVID–19 vaccine makers to share the COVID–19 vaccine recipe with willing, qualified companies around the world for a fair royalty fee so more doses can be made as quickly as possible;
- (5) the United States Government should launch and help fund a global manufacturing plan to increase and democratize COVID–19 vaccine production in regional hubs around the world to produce 8,000,000,000 more COVID–19 vaccine doses by repurposing existing facilities and building new capacity, including by allocating funds to capital expenditures to establish additional COVID–19 mRNA vaccine manufacturing lines and providing funding for raw materials, technology transfer, and royalty costs to scale up production and shave years from the global pandemic; and
- (6) the United States Government has an obligation to the American people, whose taxpayer funds helped to develop these lifesaving COVID–19 vaccines, to ensure that doses are ultimately delivered to those most in need around the world so as to ensure the global COVID–19 vaccination that is necessary to end the pandemic.