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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 6, 1979

Dear Friend:

On Wednesday, April 11 I will be presiding over hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act.

As you know, this legislation will establish a much-needed uniform patent policy allowing universities, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations to retain patent rights on inventions made under Federally-supported research and development if these contractors are willing to spend the additional money to develop and market these inventions. The bill also assures that the funding agencies will enjoy the fruits of the research they have funded. I am pleased that 24 of my Senate colleagues have now joined me in supporting this important bill.

The hearing will include a report by the Comptroller General of the United States, Mr. Elmer B. Staats, on the consequences of the disparate patent policies presently in practice, and a panel of three researchers and three small business presidents who have attempted to conduct research under these diverse policies. The Committee will also hold additional hearings in early June.

The hearing record will be open to those who would like to submit written statements on the bill or on the effects of the present policies on innovation or productivity. If you would like more information please call Joe Allen of my staff at 202-224-9263.

Sincerely,

Birch Bayh

Birch Bayh
Chairman