



The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform

21C Reaffirms Support for PERA as Senate Judiciary Committee Examines Patent Eligibility Reform

Washington, D.C. – The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform (“21C”) is pleased to renew its endorsement of the bipartisan *Patent Eligibility Restoration Act of 2025* (PERA; [S. 1546](#)) in advance of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s [hearing](#) titled, “From Genes to Machines: the Patent Eligibility Debate” on July 14, 2026. In 21C’s view, this legislation represents a significant step forward in establishing clear and predictable patent-eligibility rules in the United States, providing long-overdue certainty for innovators and strengthening America’s capacity to invest, invent, and compete.

21C is a diverse coalition of the nation’s leading researchers and manufacturers who, like all inventors, rely on a robust patent system to protect their inventions and drive breakthrough, societally beneficial innovations. In that capacity, 21C advocates for federal policies that protect and modernize the United States patent system, recognizing that a strong and reliable patent framework is essential to supporting American innovation and technological leadership.

Over the past decade, Supreme Court decisions interpreting Section 101 of the Patent Act have left the scope of patent-eligible subject matter unsettled, creating uncertainty in the courts, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and across the broader innovation ecosystem. This uncertainty undermines the predictability that independent inventors, start-ups, universities, and corporations rely upon when making long-term investment decisions and funding research and development. Yet the current framework has led to the exclusion of many otherwise patent-eligible inventions from patent protection under Section 101, with consequences across critical U.S. sectors, including medical diagnostics and lifesaving treatments, advanced manufacturing, software development, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

Section 101 is intended to serve as the coarse filter for determining whether a category of invention is eligible for consideration, rather than a patentability test. Consistent with that purpose, PERA would restore clarity to the patent eligibility framework while preserving important guardrails against overreach. The legislation would continue to exclude from patent protection fundamental concepts that do not result from human ingenuity, including mathematical formulas, certain economic and social processes, genes as they exist in the human body, and natural materials as they exist in nature.

We would like to thank Senator Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Durbin (D-IL) for agreeing to hold this important hearing. Moreover, Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Chris Coons (D-DE) have been stalwart champions for more certainty and reliability in our patent system, and we thank them for their continued leadership on PERA in Congress. 21C looks forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to pass this important legislation. It is crucial for Congress to restore clarity and predictability to the nation’s patent system to encourage U.S. innovation, attract investment, and strengthen American competitiveness.

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