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MDMA Opposes House Patent Legislation That Would Thwart Innovation and Patient Care

Washington, D.C. – Mark Leahey, President and CEO of the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA), issued the following statement today opposing H.R. 9, the “Innovation Act,” which will be marked-up in the House Judiciary Committee tomorrow:

“MDMA has long supported balanced efforts to curb abusive patent practices, but even with the changes proposed under the new manager’s amendment, H.R. 9 remains overly broad and would harm medical technology innovation and stifle the development of cures for patients who need them the most.

“Reforms to the patent system must protect the intellectual property of inventors, not endanger it. Many provisions in H.R. 9 would severely weaken the ability of small companies and the innovators behind them to attract early stage investment for their inventions and defend them against infringement.

“Provisions that address fee-shifting and heightened pleadings, for example, would create insurmountable barriers for many of our nation’s most dynamic inventors as they bring new technologies into established markets.

“MDMA appreciates the efforts of the Judiciary Committee to address abusive practices in the patent system, but H.R. 9’s desire to address ‘patent trolls’ impacts a broad cross-section of the economy. If enacted in its current form, H.R. 9 would threaten America’s leadership position in medical technology innovation.

“MDMA remains committed to working with Congress on targeted efforts to improve the patent system, but we must not do so at the expense of innovators and inventors who are revolutionizing patient care and saving lives.”

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