

# American IDEA Act

Senator Tammy Baldwin & Senator John Cornyn

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Intellectual property theft by foreign actors threatens too many American businesses. A 2017 report from the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property estimated that intellectual property misuse costs the U.S. economy between \$225-\$600 billion annually. Despite this enormous cost, it is challenging for businesses – particularly small businesses and entrepreneurs – to enforce their rights against foreign actors and the countries that fail to adequately protect American innovations.

The **American IP Defense and Enforcement Advancement (IDEA) Act** responds to this pressing issue by focusing federal policy on the greatest threats to American intellectual property and supporting the law enforcement partners responding to criminal activity that threatens American ideas.

The American IDEA Act will:

- **Provide resources for businesses** – Authorizes an Intellectual Property Protection Legal Aid program to provide training and no-cost or low-cost legal advice and services to small businesses to help them protect themselves from misuse of their intellectual property.
- **Support law enforcement** – Reauthorizes the state and local law enforcement Intellectual Property Enforcement Program and lowers the match requirement for projects with a focus on violations involving United States Trade Representative (USTR) Watch List Countries like China, Mexico, India, Russia, Guatemala, and Colombia to better support partnerships between local and state law enforcement and federal authorities as they address the role that IP theft plays in transnational crime.
- **Identify opportunities to protect IP** – Authorizes a Government Accountability Office study on protecting manufacturer’s intellectual property from misuse by USTR Priority Watch List Countries and a study on diplomatic opportunities to recover unrecouped financial losses of Americans and improve the capacity of these countries to better protect intellectual property rights.
- **Improve strategies to prevent IP theft** – Requires the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator annual report to include strategies on preventing theft of IP by entities in Priority Watch List countries; and requires the Joint Strategic Plan Against Counterfeiting and Infringement to include prevention of IP theft and misappropriation from U.S. corporations and universities by entities in Priority Watch List countries.

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