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Leaked TPP text shows deep divisions over US proposals for higher medicine prices as US Congress members oppose Trans-Pacific Trade Deal

“The leaked text of the TPP intellectual property chapter posted on [Wikileaks](#) deals with patents on medicines, copyright and trademarks. It includes the positions of all 12 countries and reveals that the US is still making extreme demands to expand patents on medicines and copyright at the expense of consumers and that most other countries are resisting these demands,” Dr. Patricia Ranald, Convenor of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network, said today.

“The text reveals that Australian Government is resisting most of the US proposals on medicines, but is supporting some US proposals on copyright which erode consumer rights,” said Dr. Ranald.

It is unacceptable that we have only learned these details through a leaked document. This reinforces our call for the release of the text of the TPP for public and Parliamentary scrutiny before it is signed by Cabinet”, said Dr. Ranald.

Detailed analyses of the text are available from [KeiOnline](#) and [Public Citizen](#) Access to Medicines.

“At the same time, cross-party US Congressional opposition to legislation which would speed up approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) shows the deal could unravel in the House of Representatives of the US Congress,” said Dr. Ranald.

Twenty-two US House of Representative Republicans and 151 Democrats today released letters proclaiming their opposition to giving President Obama “trade promotion authority” for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). A backgrounder and links to the Congressional letters are at <http://www.ftamalaysia.org/article.php?aid=331>.

“The Trade Promotion Authority legislation allows the President to submit trade deals to Congress for a yes or no vote without any amendments within 90 days. This is needed to give other countries confidence that any trade deal they reach with the United States will be approved by Congress. But months of negotiations have failed to produce a Bill,” said Dr. Ranald.

“The US is pressuring Australia and other countries to agree to extreme demands like rights for investors to sue government and stronger patents for higher medicine prices by the end of the year. But the deal lacks support in its own Congress. The Australian government should not agree to an arbitrary deadline, should take more time for public consultation and release the text of the TPP for public and Parliamentary scrutiny”, said Dr. Ranald.