



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Vice President - Financial and Business Affairs

August 10, 1978

The Honorable Senator Robert Dole
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

The Trustees of Boston University support your efforts to introduce a University and Small Business Patent Utilization bill. Unless universities are able to retain rights to inventions that may result from government sponsored research, there is little incentive to identify and protect such inventions on the part of the university and where the cost of produce introduction is high, no incentive to develop and utilize such inventions for the benefit of the public on the part of the private sector.

There has been much recent publicity given to the U. S. lag in technological innovation but little understanding or correlation given to the relationship between patent rights and technological innovation, which translates into the creation of new jobs, favorable balance of trade, and benefit to the public by way of, for example, new life-saving medical technology.

While the Trustees support the current Administration's concern for controlling the spiralling cost of medical technology, we believe that retention of patent rights by the government would be counterproductive as a means of cost containment. Passage of the proposed University and Small Business Patent Utilization bill would enable universities, with the assistance of the private sector, to bring new technologies to the marketplace which historically have brought about substantial benefits and cost savings to the public. The cost of treating typhoid fever before and after the availability of chloramphenicol or polio before and after the development of the vaccine are just two obvious examples.

Yours sincerely,

Charles W. Smith

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cc: Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Mr. Howard W. Bremer ✓