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How the TPP Endangers Access to Knowledge, Technology & Information

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed free trade agreement under negotiation between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam. The United States has ambitions to eventually apply the terms of the proposed TPP to the entire Asia Pacific region—roughly half the world's population.

The negotiating parties to the TPP pledged that it will represent a “high-standard, 21st century agreement.” The US Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed measures harmful to Internet freedom and access to information that have not been seen before in U.S. trade agreements. These proposals would transform countries' laws on copyright and its enforcement, exporting the worst elements of US law, and making it very difficult to reform outdated US law in the future. USTR's demands would strengthen, lengthen and broaden copyright monopolies.

The US has proposed TRIPS+ and ACTA+ copyright provisions, which would expand exclusive controls over knowledge and information. They aim to dictate how we access, disseminate and share knowledge, technology and information and threaten personal rights and freedoms on the Internet and in our daily lives.

Leaked texts have revealed that the U.S. proposal would:

- **Lengthen copyright terms**, thereby restricting access to scientific research, textbooks and journals, music, art and literature.
- **Restrict exceptions and limitations to copyright** in national laws by imposing “three-step test” language.
- **Expand copyright protection to temporary copies** –placing your basic daily Internet use under the control of copyright conglomerates.
- **Turn Internet Service Providers into copyright police** by introducing measures like ‘three strikes’ that can be used to cut off your Internet access.
- **Prohibit the circumventing of “digital locks”, even for legal purposes**, i.e. research and educational purposes.
- **Criminalize copyright infringement** even in cases where there is no direct or indirect motive for financial gain.

For more information, visit: <http://www.citizen.org/Copyright-Issues-in-TPP>

Public Citizen's Global Access to Medicines Program

Website:
www.citizen.org/access

E-mail:
medsaccess@citizen.org

Twitter:
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