



SIGN THE PETITION

Dear Florida State Legislator:

Florida's consumers are forced to pay thousands of dollars in extra costs each year due to persistent civil litigation abuse that has led our state to have one of the worst lawsuit environments in the country. In fact, every Florida household pays an extra \$5,065 annually due to lawsuit abuse, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Legal Reform.

During the 2023 regular legislative session, I am asking the Florida Legislature to continue its common-sense efforts to end litigation abuse in our state and to address these areas:

- **Increase Transparency in Medical Expense Recoveries:** For many years, billboard trial lawyers have abused a legal device known as "letters of protection" to inflate damages for medical care in civil lawsuits. It's time for juries to have full transparency into what health providers are actually paid for treating patients – not just what the initial billed charges were prior to discounts – and for lawmakers to end the misuse of letters of protection.
- **Eliminate one-way attorney fees altogether:** State legislators deserve praise for taking bold action in late 2022 to eliminate one-way attorney fees that fueled our property insurance crisis. But one-way attorney fees persist in auto glass lawsuits involving Assignment of Benefits (AOB) and in our state's Personal Injury Protection (PIP)/No-Fault auto insurance system. As a result, Florida's civil courts are clogged with tens of thousands of AOB auto glass and PIP lawsuits, resulting in higher auto insurance costs for Florida consumers.
- **End the use of contingency fee multipliers:** State legislators again deserve praise for correcting bad case law in 2022 and limiting the use of contingency fee multipliers to unusual or extraordinary circumstances. But these fee multipliers simply aren't necessary and serve as another incentive to sue. Trial lawyers should be compensated based on the number of hours they actually work on a case multiplied by their standard hourly rates, and should not receive a costly windfall through multipliers.

The costs of lawsuit abuse create headwinds against Florida's broader efforts to create economic prosperity and freedom and put added pressure on hard-working families who grapple daily with the effects of inflation in our national economy. This Spring, I urge the Florida Legislature to reduce the unnecessary "tort tax" on Florida families that benefits a few trial attorneys at the expense of all of us, and instead put consumers first.