

SUPPORT SB 33

A state's legal climate can be a major inducement or a major deterrent to business investment, growth and job creation. It is one factor among several key ones that businesses consider when making decisions about where to expand existing operations or locate new facilities. Specifically companies are looking for fairness and predictability.

Our legal climate and litigation costs also impact competitiveness--nationally and internationally. North Carolina businesses face growing competition against international competitors that have much lower litigation costs. This is a disadvantage for our businesses in a fiercely competitive global economy.

For North Carolina businesses to invest and create jobs North Carolina's civil justice system must be rational, fair and predictable. Employers must be free to innovate and pursue market opportunities without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits, while truly injured parties must have full recourse to appropriate measures of justice.

Senate Bill 33 is an important first step toward an overall objective to make North Carolina's legal system rational, fair and predictable. Medical malpractice reform is one method that will help lower overall health care costs which are a top concern for both small and large businesses.

The reforms in Senate Bill 33 will:

- Reduce the threat of frivolous lawsuits and the pressure on physicians to practice defensive medicine.
- Help recruit and retain physicians to practice in North Carolina thus improving access to health care.
- Help lower overall health care costs which will strengthen our economy and help create jobs.

The following companies and organizations support SB 33:

American Insurance Association
BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina
Capital Associated Industries
Carolinas Associated General Contractors
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
Gaston Regional Chamber
GlaxoSmithKline
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce
MAG Mutual Insurance Company
Manufacturers and Chemical Industry Council
National Federation of Independent Business
Norfolk Southern Corp.
North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives
North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association
North Carolina Beverage Association
North Carolina Chamber
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association
North Carolina Home Builders Association
North Carolina Hospital Association
North Carolina Medical Society
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
Property and Casualty Insurance Association of America
Richmond County Chamber of Commerce
Rowan County Chamber of Commerce
State Farm Insurance Company

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