

# ADVOCACY & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

## Call to Action

House Bill 837 passed its first hurdle last week with a favorable outcome from the Civil Justice Subcommittee. The next step for the bill before a full House body vote is the Judiciary Committee. This is where we need your help. The Volusia County Delegation has three (3) members on the Judiciary Committee, Tom Leek, Webster Barnaby, and Chase Tramont; they need to hear from us in support of HB 837. Senate Bill 236 is the companion Senate Bill.

### Why is it essential to pass HB 837?

Lawsuit abuse increases the cost for Florida families and local businesses by over \$5,000 a year on everything from auto insurance to a tube of toothpaste. Lawsuits amount to 3.6% of Florida's \$1.4 trillion GDP – more than any other state and more than we spend here on education and infrastructure combined! We are becoming less competitive when attracting businesses to our state.

- House Bill 837 will add transparency in damages, allowing juries to see what medical services were paid for or what they typically cost. Juries are not currently allowed to see the full picture when determining damages.
- House Bill 837 will protect property owners. Property owners are often held liable for negligence in personal injury cases when the injury occurred on their property, even if another party intentionally caused the injury. HB 837 will protect businesses by simply saying the fault of all parties involved must be considered when determining fault.
- House Bill 837 will repeal Florida's unique one-way attorney fee statute to ensure all parties have skin in the game and reduce frivolous litigations.
- House Bill 837 will change the standards so that a person can ONLY recover damages if they are less than 50% at fault; currently, a person can sue for damages even if they are 99% at fault for causing their injury.

# Call to Action

## What do we need to do?

We need you to call or email Representative Leek, Barnaby, and Tramont's offices to tell them to support House Bill 837 before March 8th.

### Call Script:

I am calling today to encourage Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to support House Bill 837. House Bill 837 will protect our state from frivolous lawsuits from billboard attorneys who are currently costing Florida families and local businesses over \$5,000 a year. House Bill 837 will protect businesses and make Florida more competitive to companies looking to relocate. House Bill 837 will provide transparency and fairness to lawsuits in Florida.

### Email Script (fill in Representative name in the blank space):

I am writing today to encourage Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to support House Bill 837. House Bill 837 will protect our state from frivolous lawsuits from billboard attorneys who are currently costing Florida families and local businesses over \$5,000 a year. House Bill 837 will protect businesses and make Florida more competitive to companies looking to relocate. House Bill 837 will provide transparency and fairness to lawsuits in Florida.

## Volusia County Delegation on Judiciary Committee

**Representative Chase Tramont**  
**Chase.Tramont@myfloridahouse.gov**  
**(850) 717-5030**

**Representative Webster Barnaby**  
**webster.barnaby@myfloridahouse.gov**  
**(386) 736-5042**

**Representative Tom Leek**  
**tom.leek@myfloridahouse.gov**  
**(386) 238-4865**

Will you be in Tallahassee next week? Are you willing to speak in front of the Judiciary Committee on how frivolous lawsuits have affected your business?

**House Bill 837**

**House Bill 837 Analysis**

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