

beneficial solution of the pressing problem of frivolous lawsuits which raise the cost of doing business and clog the nation's court systems."

The legislation would limit punitive damages and joint liability for non-economic damages against small businesses in any civil lawsuit. Under current law, punitive damage verdicts are commonplace as a result of vague substantive standards and unrestrained plaintiff's lawyers. Awards in non-economic cases compensate plaintiffs for "pain and suffering" or "emotional distress," and are not calculated on tangible economic loss. Multi-million dollar punitive damage awards are now routinely sought and frequently imposed in almost every type of civil case.

ABC has long been supportive of lawsuit reforms. The construction industry is particularly concerned about frivolous cases brought before the National Labor Relations Board as a result of "salting" abuses.

"ABC commends Sens. Abraham and Lieberman for introducing common-sense legislation that, if passed, will discourage costly and frivolous lawsuits against small business owners."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to join my esteemed colleagues in the introduction of the Small Business Liability Reform Act of 1999.

Over the last 30 years, the American civil justice system has become inefficient, unpredictable and costly. Consequently, I have spent a great deal of my time in the United States Senate working to reform the legal system. I was particularly pleased to help lead in the efforts to pass the Volunteer Protection Act, which offers much-needed litigation protection for our country's battalion of volunteers. America's litigation crisis, however, goes well beyond our volunteers.

Lawsuits and the mere threat of lawsuits impede invention and innovation, and the competitive position our nation has enjoyed in the world marketplace. The litigation craze has several perverse effects. For example, it discourages the production of more and better products, while encouraging the production of more and more attorneys. In the 1950s, there was one lawyer for every 695 Americans. Today, in contrast, there is one lawyer for every 290 people. In fact, we have more lawyers per capita than any other western democracy.

Mr. President, don't get me wrong—there is nothing inherently wrong with being a lawyer. I am proud to be a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law. My point, however, is simple: government and society should promote a world where its more desirable to create goods and services than it is to create lawsuits.

The chilling effects of our country's litigation epidemic are felt throughout our national economy—especially by our small businesses. We must act to remove the litigation harness that constrains our nation's small businesses.

Small businesses are vital to our nation's economy. My state provides a perfect example of the importance of small business. In Kentucky, more than 85% of our businesses are small businesses.

The Small Business Lawsuit Abuse Protection Act is a narrowly-crafted

bill which seeks to restore some rationality, certainty and civility to the legal system.

First, Title I of this bill would offer limited relief to businesses or organizations that have fewer than 25 full-time employees. Title I seeks to provide some reasonable limits on punitive damages, which typically serve as a windfall to plaintiffs. It also provides that a business's responsibility for non-economic losses would be in proportion to the business's responsibility for causing the harm.

The other Title in the bill includes liability reforms for innocent product sellers—which are very often small businesses. These businesses are often dragged into product liability cases even though they did not produce, design or manufacture the product, and are not in any way to blame for the harm that the product is alleged to have caused. Title II would help protect product sellers from being subjected to frivolous lawsuits when they are not responsible for the alleged harm.

Now, let me explain what this bill does not do. It does not close the courthouse door to plaintiffs who sue small businesses. For example, this bill does not limit a plaintiff's ability to sue a small business for an act of negligence, or any other act, for that manner. It also does not prevent a plaintiff from recovering from product sellers when those sellers are responsible for harm.

Mr. President, this is a sensible, narrowly-tailored piece of legislation that is greatly needed to free up the enterprising spirit of our small businesses. I look forward to the Senate's consideration of this important legislation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 10

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to provide health protection and needed assistance for older Americans, including access to health insurance for 55 to 65 year olds, assistance for individuals with long-term care needs, and social services for older Americans.

S. 13

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives for education.

S. 42

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 42, a bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to permit family planning projects to offer adoption services.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to reauthorize the Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 97

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs.

HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 97, a bill to require the installation and use by schools and libraries of a technology for filtering or blocking material on the Internet on computers with Internet access to be eligible to receive or retain universal service assistance.

S. 216

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 216, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the use of foreign tax credits under the alternative minimum tax.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from income certain amounts received under the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion for gain from the sale of farmland which is similar to the exclusion from gain on the sale of a principal residence.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for 100 percent of the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a safe harbor for determining that certain individuals are not employees.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to designate the legal public holiday of "Washington's Birthday" as "Presidents' Day" in

honor of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt and in recognition of the importance of the institution of the Presidency and the contributions that Presidents have made to the development of our Nation and the principles of freedom and democracy.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the method of payment of taxes on distilled spirits.

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, supra.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit on student loan interest deductions.

S. 472

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 472, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain medicare beneficiaries with an exemption to the financial limitations imposed on physical, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 510, a bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 512, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to research on autism.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) and the Senator from Ala-

bama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for 100 percent of the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 566, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to exempt agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products from unilateral economic sanctions, to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations affecting United States agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase maximum taxable income for the 15 percent rate bracket, to provide a partial exclusion from gross income for dividends and interest received by individuals, to provide a long-term capital gains deduction for individuals, to increase the traditional IRA contribution limit, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

S. 620

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 620, a bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the time limitation on benefits for immunosuppressive drugs under the medicare program, to provide continued entitlement for such drugs for certain individuals after medicare benefits end, and to extend certain medicare secondary payer requirements.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a

bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to more accurately codify the depreciable life of printed wiring board and printed wiring assembly equipment.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Farm and Ranch Risk Management Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. FRIST, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of medical savings accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services furnished by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals.

S. 661

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 664

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, supra.

S. 712

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 712, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for highway-rail grade crossing safety through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma

(Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to ensure that Congress and the public have the right to participate in the declaration of national monuments on federal land.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to establish a program to provide financial assistance to States and local entities to support early learning programs for prekindergarten children, and for other purposes.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 792

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 792, a bill to amend title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide States with the option to allow legal immigrant pregnant women, children, and blind or disabled medically needy individuals to be eligible for medical assistance under the medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel excise taxes on railroads and inland waterway transportation which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise existing regulations concerning the conditions of participation for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers under the medicare program relating to certified registered nurse anesthetists' services to make the regulations consistent with State supervision requirements.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements

S. 918

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), and the Sen-

ator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 918, a bill to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide financial and business development assistance to military reservists' small business, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) were added as cosponsors of S. 926, a bill to provide the people of Cuba with access to food and medicines from the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 980, a bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas.

S. 1017

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1017, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on the low-income housing credit.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a standard, regulation or guideline on ergonomics.

S. 1124

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1124, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 2-percent floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions for qualified professional development expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers.

S. 1129

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1129, a bill to facilitate the acquisition of inholdings in Federal land management units and the disposal of surplus public land, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 19, a concurrent resolution concerning anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Duma of the Russian Federation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor

of Senate Concurrent Resolution 22, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to promoting coverage of individuals under long-term care insurance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 34

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 34, a resolution designating the week beginning April 30, 1999, as "National Youth Fitness Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 59

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 59, a resolution designating both July 2, 1999, and July 2, 2000, as "National Literacy Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 394

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 394 proposed to S. 1059, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 394 proposed to S. 1059, supra.

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 394 proposed to S. 1059, supra.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36—CONDEMNING PALESTINIAN EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE ORIGINAL PALESTINE PARTITION PLAN OF NOVEMBER 29, 1947, AND CONDEMNING THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ITS APRIL 27, 1999, RESOLUTION ENDORSING PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ON THE BASIS OF THE ORIGINAL PALESTINE PARTITION PLAN

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. MACK, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181, which called for the partition of the British-ruled Palestine Mandate into a Jewish state and an Arab state, was declared null and void on November 29, 1947, by the Arab states and the Palestinians, who included the rejection of Resolution 181 as a formal justification for the May, 1948, invasion of the newly declared State of Israel by the armies of five Arab states;