Mothers are like water—without a mother, life could not exist, while not enough mothering can stunt growth like a plant in a desert, but too much mothering can be as suffocating as floodwaters on a field of corn. Motherhood is a delicate high-wire act, balancing love and discipline, care and independence, attention and self-reliance. It is time consuming, often stressful, unpaid, and with no promotion and little recognition. It is a Sisyphean task. Yet mothers persevere, rising each day to begin anew, building families with every meal they prepare, every schedule they coordinate, every book they read with their children, every dirty sock they collect and transform into clean and folded laundry. It takes strong women to do it well and to keep up the effort over the many years of childrearing, for this is not a job that one can hand in a resignation letter or shop around a resume to find a better position. It is a job that is truly what a mother makes it, for good or for ill. “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world,” observed W.R. Wallace. Many great men have noted the influence of their mothers. George Washington wrote that “All I am I owe to my mother.” Abraham Lincoln said that “I remember my mother’s prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.” Booker T. Washington said that “. . . If I have done anything in my life worth attention, I feel sure that I inherited the disposition from my mother.” Andrew Jackson observed that “The memory of my mother and her teachings were, after all, the only capital I had to start life with, and on that capital I have made my way.” Their mothers’ hands surely influenced the world through their mothering.

Most mothers will tell you that childrearing does not end after their children are officially grown up, either. Mothers remain a constant in the lives of their offspring for years afterward, sometimes actively involved and sometimes sitting by the wayside while the military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in many more military families calling upon grandparents and great-grandparents to raise their grandchildren while their military parents are deployed overseas for long periods. Strong families and loving mothers make this possible, if not desirable.

Often mothers with children also find themselves taking up a new and
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Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about abusive litigation in America. Unfortunately, many personal injury lawyers' insatiable appetites for a big payday by any means possible and their sense of entitlement has led to a growing number of frivolous and meritless lawsuits. These lawsuits are not only about money; they also represent attempts by some unscrupulous personal injury lawyers trying to cash in on the food industry to overstate plaintiffs' and, moreover, their exceedingly active lawyers. But these lawsuits are not only about money. They also represent attempts by a small group of lawyers and special-interest groups to subvert the legislative process and impose by litigation what they cannot achieve at the ballot box. In 1999, Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, said that, "The era of big government may be over, but the era of regulation by litigation has just begun."

Last November, a group calling itself the Public Health Advocacy Institute held its fourth annual conference regarding obesity litigation. This is the same Public Health Advocacy Institute whose 2004 Conference featured a memorable overhead projection display proclaiming "Public Health, hell. Let's sue somebody." And these groups will sue, and they will sue, and they will sue, until they have imposed their special-interest policy preferences on the rest of America.

This kind of reckless litigation cannot be allowed to continue. A Gallup poll found that 89 percent of Americans oppose holding the food industry legally responsible for the diet-related health problems of others, and only 9 percent of people choose to eat fast-food on a regular basis. The economic repercussions of this sort of frivolous litigation are very real. In fact, the food industry is one of the most important engines for our Nation's economy. The food retail sector of the industry is America's largest private-sector employer, providing jobs and livelihoods for more than 12 million Americans. Estimates suggest that the food industry's revenue is equal to 4 percent of the United States GDP.

Still, this is an industry dominated by a small number of large market participants. Numerous mom-and-pop grocery stores, family-owned and operated restaurants, specialty producers, and other small businesses will find themselves in the crosshairs of the personal injury lawyers trying to cash in on obesity-related lawsuits.

Wayne Reaves, an entrepreneur who operates seven quick-service restaurants in the Northern Alabama region, testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative

...we're going to sue them and sue them...