



Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform launches to restore fairness, curb lawsuit abuse

Broad coalition of Michigan business leaders call for common-sense legal reform

Lansing, MICH (Nov. 12, 2025) - Leading Michigan business and policy organizations today launched the **Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform**, a new, broad-based coalition dedicated to reining in lawsuit abuse and restoring balance and fairness in Michigan's legal system.

The Alliance's members represent over 30 – and growing – influential statewide associations and employers, including the **Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Michigan Realtors, Michigan Retailers, and the Small Business Association of Michigan**. Together, they're pushing for legislative solutions that align Michigan with national best practices and strengthen economic competitiveness. (Full list below).

Why It Matters | The Costs

Michigan's legal system is costly for everyone, even when they don't step foot into a courtroom. Today, the average Michigan household pays over [\\$3,000 annually](#) on a trickle-down "tort tax," and our legal climate costs us nearly [100,000 job opportunities](#) every single year.

"Lawsuit abuse is on the rise in Michigan. Slowly but surely, our legal system is turning into one that prioritizes dollars over justice, and Michigan job providers, families and communities are footing the bill," said **Zach Rudat, director of the Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform**. "Michigan needs durable, practical reforms that restore balance, protect taxpayers and make our legal system work for everyone again."

National Hotspot, Statewide Consequences

Michigan is increasingly viewed as a national hotspot for lawsuit abuse, with ripple effects that drive up costs for everyone. While other states have taken legislative steps to modernize their civil justice systems and curb lawsuit abuse, Michigan has yet to act, leaving its economy and reputation at a disadvantage in the national marketplace.

"Expansive rulings from Michigan's Supreme Court combined with legislators' liability-expanding agenda have allowed lawsuit abuse to drive up costs and drive out jobs," said **Tiger Joyce, president of the American Tort Reform Association**. "If legislators can pursue commonsense reforms instead of bills that over-regulate and hamper entrepreneurship, Michigan can lower costs and grow its economy."

Reform Priorities

The Alliance is calling on lawmakers to act on two immediate priorities:

1. Restoring Michigan's "Open and Obvious" premise liability protection, bringing the state in line with 41 others across the nation and reestablishing fairness for property owners.



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2. **Implementing transparency measures for Third Party Litigation Funding (TPLF),** a judicial financing practice where outside investors fund lawsuits with no state oversight, disclosure or guardrails.

“Without transparency and proper oversight, third party litigation funding can turn our justice system into a Black Market version of Wall Street. These commonsense measures will ensure integrity, protecting taxpayers from predatory practices, job providers from excessive lawsuits and our state and country from national security threats,” said **Rep. Mike Harris**, sponsor of new TPLF transparency reforms being introduced today – **House Bill 5281**.

Shared Call for Action

Leaders from across the state’s business community – representing employers small and large, from manufacturing and agriculture and homebuilding to retail and real estate – say legal reform is essential to ensure fairness, support growth and create a more stable, predictable environment for employers and workers alike.

“Lawsuit abuse is one of the biggest risks facing Michigan job providers. It drives up the cost of doing business, stifles investment, and limits economic growth and opportunity for both employees and employers. If we want a stronger, prosperous Michigan for all, legal reform must be a top priority in Lansing.”

— **Jim Holcomb, president & CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce**

“Small businesses are vital to the strength and character of our communities, but many are just one excessive lawsuit away from closing their doors. Stability and predictability in our legal system will help Main Streets across Michigan flourish.”

— **Brian Calley, president & CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan**

“Access to quality, affordable housing is an essential part of the American dream. But property owners here face weaker legal protections than most of the country, driving up the cost to plant roots in the Great Lakes state. With stronger, fairer protections, we can make housing and real estate more attainable and sustainable across Michigan.”

— **Rob Campau, CEO of Michigan Realtors**

“Running a business in Michigan today is more complicated than ever, in part due to our legal system creating more uncertainty and higher costs. With smart reforms, we can bring more clarity, savings and opportunity for retailers and customers alike, strengthening local economies and communities in every Michigan county.”

— **Bill Hallan, CEO of Michigan Retailers Association**



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About the Alliance

The Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform unites business, policy and community leaders committed to restoring fairness and balance to Michigan's legal system.

Founding members include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Property Casualty Insurance Association• Association of Builders and Contractors of Michigan• Auto-Dealers of Michigan, LLC• Big I Michigan• Detroit Regional Chamber• Ford Motor Company• Grand Rapids Chamber• Home Builders Association of Michigan• Insurance Alliance of Michigan• Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants• Michigan Bankers Association• Michigan Chamber of Commerce• Michigan Farm Bureau• Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association• Michigan Licensed Beverage Association• Michigan Manufacturers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michigan Oil and Gas Association• Michigan Petroleum Association, Michigan Association of Convenience Stores• Michigan Propane Gas Association• Michigan Railroad Association• Michigan Realtors• Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association• Michigan Retailers Association• Michigan Self-Insurers' Association• Michigan State Medical Society• Michigan Trucking Association• Midwest Independent Retailers Association• National Federation of Independent Business, Michigan• Retailers Insurance Company• Small Business Association of Michigan• West Michigan Policy Forum
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Learn More at: MIAllianceForLegalReform.com