



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 10, 2023**

**Contact: Cory Skeates**  
**Vice President of Community Development**  
**(321) 452-4390**  
[cskeates@cocoabeachchamber.com](mailto:cskeates@cocoabeachchamber.com)

## **Cocoa Beach Chamber Supports Fair, Rational, and Consistent Legal Climate Through Passage of CS/CS/HB 837**

**Merritt Island, FL:** The Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce joins its partners at the Florida Chamber of Commerce in support of CS/CS/HB 837, related to civil remedies.

Florida's economy and quality of life are a model for nearly every state in America. We have excellent schools, a great natural environment, a quality of life that is second to none, and a growing economy. However, Florida loses business and Florida families face a hidden tax in every good and service they consume because the state currently lacks a fair, rational, and consistent legal climate.

Our bottom-five legal climate stifles the state's competitiveness in an otherwise business-friendly environment and negatively impacts Floridians through increased costs. What Florida spends on these lawsuits accounts for over 3.6 percent of Florida's \$1.4 trillion economy. This equates to over \$50 billion each year being spent on litigation.

CS/CS/HB 837 is important to Florida's business community because it:

- Puts the interests of local businesses and Florida consumers above the interests of billboard trial lawyers.
- Improves Florida's bottom-five lawsuit abuse climate, which in turn will enhance Florida's economic competitiveness.
- Protects consumers by reducing lawsuit abuse taxes, which currently costs Florida families \$5,065 per household.

Per the Chamber's Board approved Guiding Policy Principles, under the section regarding Insurance and Legal Climate, it is stated that the Cocoa Beach Chamber advocates for:

- A legal and regulatory framework that does not overburden business.

This section of the Guiding Policy Principles provides the Chamber with the ability to act nimbly in support our partners at the Florida Chamber as they work to create the most comprehensive reforms in decades to decrease frivolous litigation and prevent predatory practices that prey upon hardworking Floridians and small businesses.

XXX