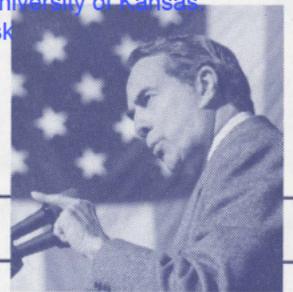


Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202)224-5358

PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM

DOLE URGES PRESIDENT TO SIGN BILL TO CURB ABUSIVE LAWSUITS:
ALL AMERICANS PAYING IN HIGHER PRICES
AND IN LOSS OF LIFE-SAVING TECHNOLOGY,
JOBS & INNOVATIVE NEW PRODUCTS

Today Congress sends to the White House a bipartisan bill to curb abusive, predatory lawsuits. On behalf of members of Congress from both parties and of all Americans, including the Ransom family -- and you have heard from Tara Ransom and her mother today -- I am asking the President to sign this bill into law.

America deserves a legal system that we can be proud of, not one that deserves a special wing at the "Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum."

Lawsuits took a \$152 billion bite out of our national wallet in 1994. That's bigger than the federal budget deficit and it's climbing -- up 15 percent from 1990.

Directly or indirectly, lawsuit abuse hits all of us and we all pay its price -- in life saving medical devices that are removed from the market, in businesses and jobs lost, in innovative new products that never make it to market. It is time to stop lawsuit abuse before lawsuit abuse stops America.

When this bill arrives on his desk, President Clinton will choose whether he's on the side of the hard-working American consumers, who ultimately pay with their dollars or even with greater risk in their lives, for jackpot verdicts -- or of the smooth-talking, get-rich-quick trial lawyers who have turned the pursuit of justice into a big-dollar game of search and destroy.

We know that the trial lawyers are already on the President's side: the Center for Responsive Politics found that in just the first 9 months of last year, lawyers and law firms pumped another \$2.5 million into the President's campaign war chest. Now the trial lawyers are twisting Mr. Clinton's arm to veto this bill.

By signing this bill, the President can show he won't be strong-armed. The President can leave his trial lawyer friends in their Gucci loafers and walk a mile in the shoes of average Americans.

As Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton worked with the National Governors Association to endorse civil justice reform. A few weeks ago he seemed ready to make good on that endorsement.

We've seen this pattern before on the bipartisan measure to reform shareholder strike suits, which he vetoed. If he remains true to form, no reform will be good enough for Bill Clinton or the big-money trial lawyers who support him -- lawyers who want rewards, not reform.

Again, he can surprise us. He can still do the right thing and sign this bill.

###