



Big Business Spent Tens of Millions Lobbying for Extreme Bills Intended to Block People’s Legal Rights to Seek Justice Against Corporate Recklessness and Medical Malpractice

March 10, 2017 – According to federal lobbying disclosures, corporate interests, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, lobbied far more than any other lobbying groups to push extreme legislation intended to deny peoples’ legal rights to seek justice against corporate recklessness and medical malpractice.

Figure 1: Groups and corporations that filed the highest number of reports lobbying for legislation to limit consumers and patients’ legal right to sue when harmed.

| Legislation | U.S. Chamber of Commerce | Hartford Financial Services | Honeywell International | Allstate Insurance Company | National Association of Manufacturers | American College of Emergency Physicians |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| H.R.1927: Fairness in Class Action Litigation and Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act of 2016 | 40* | 4 | | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| H.R.526: Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2015 | 59 | 21 | | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| S.357: FACT Act | 37 | 12 | | 17 | 16 | 7 |
| H.R.758: Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015 | 21 | 6 | | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| S.401: Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015 | 15 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| H.R.3624: Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2016 | 12 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| H.R.4771: Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2016 | 6 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Numbers represent the number of lobbying reports filed by each group that mention the bills listed in the first column. Data via the lobbying database at OpenSecrets.org, <https://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/>*

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce with its Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) reported as much as \$107 million on lobbying efforts including bills to undermine victims' rights, leading lobbying spending for these bills. While the Chamber's lobbying encompasses a vast array of issues, only a fraction of which includes civil justice, the Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform places a special emphasis on these bills.

Figure 2: Top groups and corporations that lobbied to undermine the rights of consumers and patients that spent the most lobbying on these issues in the 114th Congress (2015-2016). Corporate spenders indicated with double asterisk.**

| Lobbying group | Lobbying Spending | Bills supported that would block people's legal rights |
|---|----------------------|---|
| U.S. Chamber of Commerce** | \$56,380,000 | Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act, Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2015, Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015, HEALTH Act |
| U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform** | \$50,830,000 | Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act, Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015, FACT Act of 2015, Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act, HEALTH Act |
| American Hospital Association | \$18,830,000 | HEALTH Act |
| National Association of Manufacturers** | \$14,710,014 | FACT Act, Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act (LARA), |
| America's Health Insurance Plans** | \$6,960,000 | HEALTH Act |
| Honeywell International** | \$6,010,000 | Fairness in Class Action Litigation and Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act of 2016, FACT Act of 2015 |
| The Procter and Gamble Company** | \$5,430,884 | Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act |
| Allstate Insurance Company** | \$3,890,000 | Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act, FACT Act of 2015 |
| Society for Human Resource Management | \$3,706,116 | HEALTH Act |
| National Federation of Independent Businesses** | \$2,308,000 | Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act, Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act |
| American College of Emergency Physicians | \$2,227,762 | Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act |
| CORPORATE SPENDER TOTAL** | \$146,518,898 | |
| TOTAL | \$171,282,776 | |

* These amounts are calculated by adding the lobbying spending totals from quarterly reports that disclosed lobbying activity on the above bills. These quarterly reports indicate that these groups were lobbying on many different subjects, and as such, we do not know how much of this money was spent specifically on lobbying for the above bills. Data via the U.S. Senate lobbying disclosure database, <https://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=selectFields>