



TED KANAVAS
STATE SENATOR

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Kanavas Product Liability Bill Passes Senate

(Madison) May 3, 2005...State Senator Ted Kanavas (R-Brookfield) is pleased to announce the passage of Senate Bill 58, which will create an environment encouraging job growth and product innovation by providing a fair legal framework to protect manufactures, distributors, and sellers of goods from frivolous product liability claims.

“I am very pleased that this common sense piece of legislation passed the Senate today. The bill will continue to allow consumers to recover damages for product defects while injecting a dose of fairness into the legal process,” Kanavas stated.

Under current product liability law, manufacturers, distributors, and point of sale retailers of products must pay damage awards even if they are not negligent, and even if the plaintiff’s own negligence caused the injury. Oftentimes, small businesses, like a local hardware store, are named in massive lawsuits simply by acting as the middleman in the sale of a defective product. SB 58 protects these businesses from potentially massive and unnecessary legal expenses while allowing to consumer to seek damages from those who are truly at fault.

“This bill is driven by common sense. In order for Wisconsin to continue to attract businesses and create jobs we must have a fair and understandable system of justice. This legislation provides basic legal protections to manufacturers, retailers, and others that will prevent outrageous and unnecessary lawsuits,” concluded Kanavas.

As Chairman of the Job Creation, Economic Development and Consumer Affairs Committee, Senator Kanavas has taken a keen interest in the creation of new jobs, reducing taxes, and passing regulatory relief.

Please visit Senator Kanavas’ website to learn more about Senator Kanavas’ initiatives and the 33rd Senate District: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen33/news>

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