

*Wisconsin Coalition  
for Civil Justice*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Bill Smith, (608) 255-6083  
Jim Hough, (608) 258-9506**

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**Civil Justice Coalition Criticizes  
Governor's Veto of Jobs Preservation Act**

**MADISON**—The Wisconsin Coalition for Civil Justice (WCCJ) expressed extreme disappointment in Governor Jim Doyle's veto of Senate Bill 402, relating to manufacturer and seller liability. SB 402 was developed and passed in response to a 2005 Supreme Court decision that has Wisconsin alone among the 50 states in allowing recovery without proof of fault.

"A number of circumstances, including three recent State supreme Court cases, has elevated the liability crisis to the number one economic development issue in our state" according to Jim Hough, WCCJ's Executive and Legislative Director.

"We have seen our state referred to as *Alabama North* in the *Wall Street Journal*; the U.S. Chamber has opined that we have opened our doors to plaintiff lawyers around the country; and, the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) has given us an "dishonorable mention" as a *Judicial Hellhole*," added Bill Smith of NFIB and President of WCCJ.

Hough and Smith both expressed concern that the Governor's veto of this and other civil justice reform measures, including medical malpractice noneconomic damage caps, will make a very serious economic development situation even worse.

"The Legislature has acted deliberately and firmly in addressing our liability crisis," Hough said, "but the corrections in our civil justice system cannot occur unless the Governor participates and signs reasonable changes into law."

Smith and Hough urged the Governor to engage in a meaningful dialogue on our liability crisis and to give this economic development and civil justice fairness issue the priority that it deserves.

*The Wisconsin Coalition for Civil Justice was founded in the mid-1980's and consists of over 50 statewide organizations that has as its mission the advocacy of a fair and equitable civil justice system where "neither side" is advantaged "by the rules of the game."*