

# THE PRICE TAG OF THE U.S. TORT SYSTEM WAS \$429 BILLION IN 2016

OR MORE THAN  
**2X THE BUDGET**

OF THE **EUROPEAN  
UNION**

## ECONOMIC WASTE

Lawsuits cost an average of \$3,329 for each American household per year in the form of higher prices for everyday goods and services.

## LAWSUITS CAN PUT A SMALL BUSINESS OUT OF BUSINESS

More than 4 out of 10 small business owners in America say they have been threatened with or are already involved in a civil lawsuit.

## AMERICAN COURTS ARE CLOGGED

American courts are clogged with frivolous class action lawsuits. The number of cases awaiting resolution for three years or more exceeded 30,000 cases for the past ten years.

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# CLASS ACTIONS ARE EXPENSIVE & INEFFICIENT

A study by the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that when class action claimants do receive payment from a lawsuit, it is typically about \$32, while claimants' lawyers earn an average of \$1 million per settled case.

THE U.S. CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU ALSO FOUND THAT **87%** OF THE CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS EXAMINED

RESULTED IN

**NO CONSUMER BENEFIT AT ALL**

## HOW AMERICAN CONSUMERS FEEL ABOUT THE U.S. TORT SYSTEM

**79%** of American consumers

view the number of lawsuits in the United States as a serious problem.

**87%** of American consumers

think some claimants' lawyers file too many frivolous lawsuits and that new legislation is needed to create standards, which would reduce the number of lawsuits.

## EUROPE, PROCEED WITH CAUTION

The European Commission has proposed a directive that could bring U.S.-style class actions lawsuits to the EU. It is important that consumers have access to redress, however, the Commission's proposal may actually end up hurting consumers. Without critical safeguards to protect against abuse, collective litigation will benefit the lawyers and litigation funders—not the consumers.



U.S. CHAMBER  
Institute for Legal Reform

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