



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

PRESS RELEASE

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## **TRIAL LAWYERS, INC. UPDATE:** **The Move to Reverse Michigan's Model Reforms** *NEW! Report on Michigan's Litigation Industry*

**Lansing, MI**—June 20, 2006: Today, the Manhattan Institute's Center for Legal Policy (CLP) released its *Trial Lawyers, Inc. Update: The Move to Reverse Michigan's Model Reforms*, a new report on the efforts of the plaintiffs' bar to repeal Michigan's unique "FDA defense" law. Following up on the success of April 2005's *Trial Lawyers, Inc: California* and October 2005's *Trial Lawyers, Inc: Health Care*, this brief report continues the CLP's scrutiny of America's rapacious litigation industry.

In 1996, the Michigan legislature passed an historic FDA defense law that limited lawsuits against makers of FDA-approved drugs, with the express purpose of triggering investment in the state's life-sciences industries. Now, the litigation industry—in concert with its allies in the Michigan's House of Representatives—is trying to overturn this model tort reform, putting Michigan's thriving medical sector in economic danger.

Did you know?

- Michigan's unemployment rate hovers at 6.6%, while the U.S. rate has fallen to 4.7%.
- Since 1999, Michigan has lost nearly 1 in 3 manufacturing jobs—losing 20,000 since March 2005 alone.
- Michigan's 12,000 pharmaceutical-sector jobs pay an average yearly wage of \$60,000.
- Michigan has attracted \$355 million in life-sciences R&D since the 1996 law's passage.
- Michigan's pharmaceutical sector has a \$4 billion (direct and indirect) impact on its economy.

*Trial Lawyers, Inc. Update: The Move to Reverse Michigan's Model Reforms* aims to

- Debunk the myth that the trial bar's aim is to protect public health and "the little guy"
- Assess the threat to Michigan's economy posed by a litigious business climate
- Highlight Michigan's unique FDA defense law as a model for nationwide tort reform efforts

Michigan cannot afford the economic damage that repeal of the FDA defense would inflict. Governor Granholm, who said in April 2006 that she wanted to 'explode the growth' in Michigan's life sciences, has traveled the world to bring jobs and investment to Michigan; to preserve them, she must now fight to maintain Michigan's tort reforms. Otherwise, Wolverine Staters may lose even more sorely needed jobs.

For a copy of the report please visit: [www.TrialLawyersInc.com](http://www.TrialLawyersInc.com)

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