



March 6, 2015

Dear Representative Thompson,

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) organizations across the state support House Bill 1692 by Rep. Kenneth Sheets. HB 1692 will give Texas judges greater control regarding which lawsuits can be filed in Texas courts.

Due to a 2014 Texas Supreme Court decision in *Mendez v. Ford*, Texas courts have once again become a magnet for lawsuits from outside our state, and filed here with the thinnest of connections. This situation could lead to a return of Texas being the “courthouse to the world,” a situation we faced more than two decades ago and that clogged our court system.

Currently, both a “plaintiff” and “Texas resident” are defined very broadly in Texas. Below are just a few of the many definitions of a “Texas resident.”

- A non-Texas resident who “intends” to move to Texas.
- Former Texas residents who “intend” to return to Texas.
- Those who cannot legally even travel to the USA, so long as the above two requirements are met.
- Even those without a Texas mailing address, Texas driver’s license or Texas employment.

HB 1692 ensures that Texas courts remain open to Texas residents, and prevents citizens from the Lone Star State from being denied justice at the hands of a court clogged with out-of-state cases. Texas has made great strides over the last 20 years in instituting meaningful legal reforms. These reforms have made Texas the national model for a fair and predictable legal environment.

By supporting HB 1692, you will continue that legacy of reform. We respectfully ask that you support HB 1692.

Sincerely,

Dewitt Gayle, Chairman
Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse of Central Texas
(CALACTX)

Diane Davis, Executive Director
East Texans Against Lawsuit Abuse

Connie Scott, Chairwoman
Bay Area Citizens Against Lawsuit
Abuse (BACALA)

Julian Alvarez, Chairman
Rio Grande Valley Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse