



Title: "Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" Proclamation Signed by Mayor Daugherty
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"Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" Proclamation Signed by Mayor Daugherty

WHEREAS, Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch, a grassroots, legal watchdog group is observing the week of October 6-10, 2014 as "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week"; and

WHEREAS, "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" is an opportunity to focus the public's attention on the need for civil justice reform in Illinois and to finally shed the state's reputation as the "Lawsuit Abuse Capital of the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, as citizens of Illinois, we are deeply concerned with the impact frivolous lawsuits have on businesses, consumers, taxpayers and local governments; and

WHEREAS, we understand that stopping lawsuit abuse starts with each and every citizen because unnecessary lawsuits hurt the ability of Illinois communities to attract jobs and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important ways for citizens to stop lawsuit abuse is

to serve on juries rather than find excuses to get out of jury duty; and

WHEREAS, the abuse of Illinois courts also hurts taxpayers who have to pay the cost for the endless lawsuits brought against city and county governments; and

WHEREAS, good judges matter and with more common-sense minded members of the judiciary comes a vastly improved litigation climate throughout Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the judicial branch of government exerts considerable influence on our society making it important for citizens to make informed choices when they cast their vote for judicial candidates; and

WHEREAS, every man, woman and child in Illinois pays a hidden "lawsuit tax" of \$857 per year; and

WHEREAS, a recent Harris company report ranks Illinois 46th out of 50 states for legal

fairness; and

WHEREAS, Illinois legislators should work to pass common sense reforms that help create jobs, not lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, I-Law has implemented a program of public information to: increase public awareness of the adverse impact of lawsuit abuse, encourage personal responsibility and citizen action, and address the importance of jury service.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gerald E. Daugherty, Mayor of the City of Mascoutah, Illinois do hereby proclaim October 6-10, 2014 as "LAW-SUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK" in Mascoutah, Illinois and urge all citizens to inform themselves about our civil justice system and show their support for Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch in its efforts to increase public awareness of lawsuit abuse and its effects on the community.

-Mayor Gerald E. Daugherty