

# Chicago Tribune

## Opposing the Structural Work Act

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May 15, 2008

The Chicago Tribune's editorial, "The lawyers-get-work-act," (April 29) rightly sounds the alarm about the dangers of reinstating the Structural Work Act in Illinois. Reinstating this law is indeed more about lining the pockets of powerful trial attorneys than it is about helping injured workers.

The current worker's compensation system is fair to workers injured on the job. Tougher safety regulations and a solid worker's compensation system have helped create a safer and more vibrant work environment in Illinois. As a result, the construction industry has added more than 60,000 jobs since the so-called "Scaffold Law" was repealed.

Exposing Illinois' employers to more lawsuits is only good for those who are in the business of suing people. Illinois lawmakers should be concentrating on putting together a sensible state budget instead of inventing ways to help their trial lawyer friends at the expense of the state's economy. As the Chicago Tribune editorial correctly concludes, "The only reason to revive the Structural Work Act is to give trial lawyers a new opportunity to hit the jackpot."

We simply cannot afford to open the floodgates of lawsuit abuse even wider here in Illinois. Let's stand together and oppose this dangerous legislation and just maybe we can bring back some common sense to Springfield.

--Travis Akin

Executive Director, Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch  
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