

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
Franklin County, Pennsylvania

RESOLUTION NO. 258

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THIS TOWNSHIP SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF THE
LAWSUIT ABUSE REFORM ACT.

WHEREAS, our society has grown increasingly litigious in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the ability of an individual to sue anyone and everyone has resulted in unnecessary direct and indirect legal costs for frivolous litigation; and

WHEREAS, local governments and their taxpayers must ultimately bear the cost of such litigation, resulting in higher taxes; and

WHEREAS, the threat of lawsuits has forced local governments to curtail or discontinue municipal services and programs; and

WHEREAS, under Pennsylvania's joint and several provisions, a party found only partly liable could still be responsible for payment of 100 percent of damages assessed; and

WHEREAS, local governments are particularly vulnerable to civil action under Pennsylvania's joint and several liability provisions because they are perceived as "deep pocket defendants"; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is one of only five states in the nation that has not enacted some type of legal reform to curb lawsuit abuse; and

WHEREAS, recent polls have shown widespread public support for needed reform.

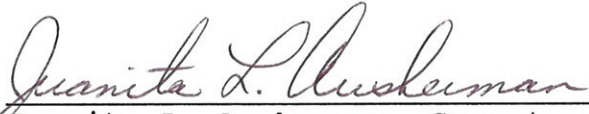
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington Township, Franklin County, supports the efforts of the Pennsylvania Civil Justice Coalition to restore fairness, common sense and personal responsibility to Pennsylvania's legal system; and

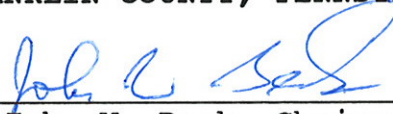
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington Township calls upon its state legislators to support passage of the Lawsuit Abuse Reform Act and that copies of the resolution be forwarded to our state legislators, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, and the Pennsylvania Civil Justice Coalition.

DULY RESOLVED this 20th day of April, 1998, by the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA


Juanita L. Ausherman, Secretary

By 
John W. Beck, Chairman