



The Champion for Business award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

Throughout the 2023 Regular Session, these six legislators provided outstanding support on critical issues to AIF and our members.

Votes provide tangible evidence of whether a legislator supports the ability of Florida companies to prosper and operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation. They are valuable tools used by AIF and the business community to determine which legislators deserve our support. Yet voting records only tell part of the story.

A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes a stand for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate, and who faces down opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.



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The *Champion for Business* is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has supported business and who hasn't, we leave no stone unturned.

In our collective wisdom, these six legislators are the epitome of what a *Champion for Business* should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.



**Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples)**

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo is receiving her fifth **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds President Passidomo for her impeccable leadership during the 2023 Legislative Session. President Passidomo was an essential part in passing a historic tort reform bill, as well as spearheading efforts to increase access to affordable workforce housing. President Passidomo also worked closely with AIF to promote business-friendly solutions to several bills that pose significant challenges. AIF thanks President Passidomo for her unwavering commitment to keeping Florida a strong, free-flowing economy with unlimited opportunities for economic growth.



**House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast)**

Speaker of the House Paul Renner is receiving his second **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Speaker Renner for his steadfast leadership in passing landmark legislation that will finally begin to put an end to lawsuit abuse. Florida's difficult legal climate has plagued businesses in our state for too long and was holding our economy back from achieving even greater prosperity. AIF thanks Speaker Renner for his bold leadership that helped pass one of the most monumental civil justice reform bills in history.



**Representative Tommy Gregory (R-Lakewood Ranch)**

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Tommy Gregory is receiving his first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Chairman Gregory for his dedication to reshaping the legal climate in Florida by spearheading the revolutionary tort reform law **HB 837**. As the bill sponsor, Chairman Gregory faced fierce opposition from the powerful trial bar. Yet, instead of watering down the bill through the committee process, he pushed to provide even stronger protections for businesses that are at risk of frivolous lawsuits. AIF thanks Chairman Gregory for his efforts to significantly improve Florida's legal climate for both businesses and consumers.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**AUG. 22-23**



**Senator Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast)**

Senator Travis Hutson is receiving his first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Sen. Hutson for his role in passing the Senate's tort reform package during the 2023 Legislative Session. Sen. Hutson, who is not an attorney, masterfully presented the complex legal issues in the bill and was able to successfully guide the bill throughout the committee process and on the Senate Floor. Additionally, Sen. Hutson made a concerted effort to work with all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the reforms passed were meaningful and had a lasting impact on businesses and consumers. AIF thanks Sen. Hutson for his years of legislative service to the State of Florida and looks forward to working with him during his final session in the Senate.



**Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando)**

Senator Linda Stewart is receiving her first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Sen. Stewart's willingness to cross party lines and be the only Democratic senator to vote for the sweeping tort reform bill. She also sponsored a bill that will significantly cut back on the amount of litigation in the auto glass industry. Like many aspects facing Florida businesses, the auto glass market was continuously burdened by a system that incentivized excessive litigation. The bill removed the ability for auto glass repair shops to provide incentives for customers to file claims, as well as eliminated the assignment of benefits for auto glass claims. AIF thanks Sen. Stewart for her years of service in the Florida legislature and for her commitment to protect Florida businesses during her tenure.



**Representative Tom Fabricio (R-Miami Lakes)**

Representative Tom Fabricio is receiving his first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Rep. Fabricio for his stellar work as prime co-sponsor of **HB 837** that will help put an end to lawsuit abuse in the Sunshine State. As prime co-sponsor, he presented substantial pieces of the legislation and played a significant role in the bill's success. Rep. Fabricio also sponsored **HB 761** that clarifies the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act to prevent frivolous litigation when businesses call or text customers for legitimate reasons. AIF is thankful to Rep. Fabricio for providing steady, insightful leadership in passing monumental civil justice reforms during the 2023 Session.

Visit [AIF.com/CFB](https://www.aif.com/cfb) for a complete list of past AIF Champion for Business winners.



**2023**  
**AIF Annual**  
**Conference**



**Contemporary**  
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# Champions for Business Awards Dinner

June 14, 2023

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