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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jefferson Chamber Supports Lowering Louisiana’s Jury Trial Threshold

METAIRIE, LA – April 7, 2014 – The Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors has voted to support House Bill 917, which would lower Louisiana’s \$50,000 jury trial threshold for civil cases to zero.

Louisiana currently has the highest jury trial threshold in the country, while 36 other states have no jury threshold. This unique legislation incentivizes both the filing and inflated settlement of lawsuits under \$50,000, driving up costs and encouraging frivolous cases. (See attached Jury Threshold U.S. Map.)

The costs that result from excessive litigation are passed to the consumer across the board, but more specifically, insurance rates go up. Louisiana has some of the most expensive car insurance rates in America, in part due to excessive litigation.

This bill will re-instate a Louisianan’s right to a civil trial by jury. “We believe that this legislation will be just one step in bettering the litigation climate in Louisiana,” said Todd Murphy, Jefferson Chamber President. “In the passage of this legislation, we would urge the legislators to explore guaranteed rate reductions through the Department of Insurance. It is unconscionable to accept the exorbitant insurance rates, (especially automotive), that we have become accustomed to paying.”

About the Jefferson Chamber:

The [Jefferson Chamber](http://www.jeffersonchamber.org) is a leading voice for Jefferson Parish’s business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state and federal levels. The Chamber’s mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, follow on Facebook ([facebook.com/jeffersonchamber](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonchamber)) and on Twitter [@jeffersoncoc](https://twitter.com/jeffersoncoc).

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