

# Protecting Small Business Investment in Florida

## The Problem:

In Florida, there are more than **40,000** small businesses owned and operated by franchisees. They provide over **404,000** jobs to Floridians and generate **\$35 billion** in annual economic activity. Franchisees investing in Florida range from retail & convenience stores to home-based services, hotels & restaurants, and automotive service stations. Most are affiliated with large, nationally recognized brand name corporations. **However, they are owned by local individuals who risked personal capital to start a business and pursue their dreams.**

Franchisees invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in their businesses. They invest in and support Florida communities, employ citizens of this state, and pay sales and property taxes here in Florida. Yet they worry about losing everything due to the disproportionate power and unjust practices of corporate franchisors.

## The Solution:

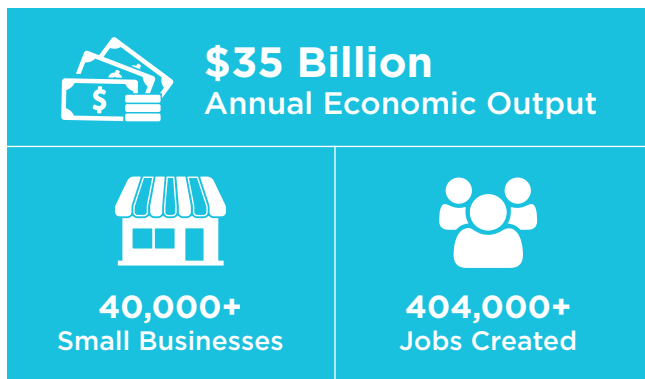
The Protect Florida Small Business Act outlines several commonsense protections for franchised small businesses and the people they employ. These include:

- Protection from unjust terminations
- Protection from restrictions on sales and transfers
- Protection from non-renewal of a franchise agreement
- Right to monetize on equity they have built
- Protection from further unlawful acts and practices by franchisors
- Right to the application of Florida state law

In Florida, similarly-situated businesses—such as automobile dealers, agricultural equipment dealers, and beer distributors—are afforded legal protection under state law from abuse by manufacturers.

Across the country, 23 states have gone further than Florida to also shield small business owners who invest in a franchise business opportunity from abuse by franchisors.

**Florida continues to outpace the rest of the country in job growth and economic development following the Great Recession of 2009. It is time for Florida to protect the small business owners who invest personal capital in this state and its workforce.**



Impact of Franchisee-Owned Small Businesses in Florida