



Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization Senate Staff Briefing Executive Summary
“Asbestos: The Impact on Consumer Safety, Public Health, and Asbestos Victims’ Civil Rights”
April 27, 2017

Linda Reinstein, President and Co-Founder, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (CA)

Asbestos is a known human carcinogen responsible for up to 15,000 deaths a year in America. Asbestos causes lung cancer; pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, and testicular cancers; asbestosis; pleural plaques; and a number of other cancers.

New CDC data indicates that mesothelioma death rates are increasing despite decreased consumption.

Since 2005, the Senate has passed 13 *Asbestos Awareness Week* Resolutions and the U.S. Surgeon General has issued five *Asbestos Awareness Week* Statements warning against the dangers of asbestos exposure.

Julie Gundlach, Mesothelioma Patient (MO)

Parents unknowingly expose children and loved ones to asbestos by hugging them while wearing asbestos-contaminated work clothing can cause asbestos-related disease. We call these “Deadly Hugs.”

There is “no safe level” of exposure to asbestos fibers, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Carrie McNamara, Asbestos Victim (IA)

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 2013 study showed that firefighters had a rate of mesothelioma two times greater than the general population.

The Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACTI) Act delays justice to asbestos victims by erecting a series of legal roadblocks designed to slow down compensation. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Robin Tucker, Asbestos Victim (OH)

Since 1900, the US has consumed over 31 million tons of asbestos and continues to import several hundred tons each year.

Independent investigations in 2000, 2007, and 2015 confirmed asbestos in consumer products in the U.S., including children’s toys.

Scott Slesinger, Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Changes in the regulatory process could undermine the amended TSCA and make it impossible to ban asbestos as well as undermine every other statute that protects health, safety, the environment or our economic system.