



Dear Lawmakers,

We are veterans, family members, and supporters who write to express our strong opposition to the so-called “Asbestos Trust Transparency” bills being introduced in states across the country at the urging of asbestos companies and their insurance companies. Veterans may only represent 8% of the nation’s population, but they comprise an astonishing 30% of all known mesothelioma deaths that have occurred in this country. Exposure to asbestos is the only known cause of mesothelioma.

We are from states and districts across the United States. We are Republicans and Democrats. We have come together because of the disproportionate impact this legislation will have on the veteran’s community. We ask lawmakers to stop these bills from ever becoming law because they have no purpose other than to make it impossible for families to hold asbestos companies accountable.

The entities pushing these bills are the asbestos companies and their insurers who will benefit from laws making it that much more difficult for veterans to seek justice for their injuries and suffering. These companies profited from asbestos, knowing that it was a deadly toxin, by exposing service members, veterans, workers, and the public. Now, they are seeking to use state legislatures to shield them from accountability for their behavior. These bills are just another example of the rigged system in which the interests of powerful corporations are put over the interests of ordinary people.

The “Asbestos Trust Transparency” bills will significantly delay and deny asbestos victims’ compensation, a goal of the asbestos industry for decades. These bills would force asbestos patients and their families, to jump through numerous expensive and time-consuming hoops before being allowed to move forward with filing a claim in state court. They rig the state judicial process in unprecedented ways by giving asbestos defendants new rights not enjoyed by any other party. By creating unnecessary hurdles to file a lawsuit in court, the asbestos corporations hope to escape any responsibility.

It is horribly offensive that the corporations who concealed the dangers of asbestos exposure for decades, causing one of the worst and longest-running public health crises in U.S. history, now seek to deny their victims’ justice. How can asbestos companies claim we are the ones whose rights should be denied, after they spent decades covering up the dangers of asbestos while we and our family members were unknowingly exposed?

The people most impacted by this legislation stepped forward to serve our country knowing full well they might have to lay down their lives to protect the nation from our enemies. When they came home, Asbestos companies hid the dangers of asbestos from veterans, their colleagues, and their families for decades and still, to this day, routinely deny their responsibility for poisoning millions of Americans. To this day, there is unlabeled asbestos buried underground and in our buildings that will expose future generations to this deadly material. Unfortunately, this tragedy appears far from over.

We represent the real people who matter in this debate and who will be the most impacted by this legislation. We are determined to stop any legislation that places the interests of the asbestos industry above the rights of service members, veterans, their families or any other individual exposed to toxic asbestos. The legislature should honor all veterans and hard-working Americans. Please oppose these “Asbestos Trust Transparency” bills in your state.

Sincerely,