



Wednesday, February 01, 2017

Chairman Wilborn and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 3.2 million activists around the country, and the more than 50,000 here in Kansas, I encourage you to support Senate Bill 73, the Asbestos Bankruptcy Trust Claims Transparency Act. This bill would reform the laws regarding asbestos lawsuits which would protect those harmed by asbestos while increasing transparency in the courtroom.

There is no mistaking that there are thousands of people who have suffered negative health effects due to their exposure to asbestos. As a result, trusts were established to compensate those who have been subject to exposure. Any individual who believes they have a case can look to these trust funds, as well as other litigation, for restitution. However the current system often leaves little in the way of transparency which has negative effects not only on businesses involved in lawsuits, but also other asbestos victims.

This bill would increase the transparency in the system and address the problem of double dipping by first requiring plaintiffs to file a claim with available trusts. The bill would also allow all parties, and Kansas Courts, access to the trust claim materials submitted by the plaintiff. Often this information is not available when a tort claim is made in a civil asbestos case against a business.

As a result, claimants can make one claim to the trust and another in court. By providing this information that potential double claims can be eliminated. Businesses will also be able to better protect themselves from lawsuits which may be correctly remedied by an asbestos trust.

When dealing with complicated issues such as asbestos, it's crucial there is transparency in the system to ensure a fair ruling but also protect truly vulnerable populations. I encourage you to pass the Asbestos Bankruptcy Trust Claims Transparency Act and shine a spotlight on this process.

Jeff Glendenning
Kansas State Director
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