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ADAO Congratulates the Acting U.S. Surgeon General, Steven K. Galson, and Thanks the U.S. Senate for Efforts to Encourage Warning about Asbestos Dangers

Recently Discovered Surgeon General Statement Underscores Need for Full Asbestos Ban

September 16, 2009... Redondo Beach, CA --- The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) today announced its support for the Surgeon General's statement acknowledging the dangers of asbestos and thanks the U.S. Senate for continued efforts to encourage a warning. The discovery of the April 1, 2009 Acting U.S. Surgeon General statement is greatly appreciated by ADAO, who has always encouraged an official warning about asbestos dangers, as recommended by a U.S. Senate Resolution establishing the first week of April as "National Asbestos Awareness Week." The statement specifies: "I urge every American to become aware of the public health issues of asbestos exposure and the steps they can take to protect their health." It also underscores the need for a ban, stating, "...there is no level of asbestos exposure that is known to be safe and minimizing your exposure will minimize your risk of developing asbestos-related disease."

"The United States Senate's Resolution urging the Surgeon General to issue a warning, 'as a public health issue, to warn and educate people that asbestos exposure may be hazardous to their health', was a landmark step to preventing exposure and deaths," stated Linda Reinstein, ADAO Executive Director. "As a mesothelioma widow, I am pleased to see the Surgeon General's statement, as asbestos has been a known carcinogen for more than thirty years. ADAO is excited to be able to advance educational efforts with his statement, which strongly reaffirms the need to ban asbestos."

Every reputable United States and international health agency including the Environmental Protection Agency, the World Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the American Cancer Society agree there is no safe level of asbestos exposure. Most recently, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reconfirmed that all commercial asbestos fibers – including chrysotile, the most commercially used form of asbestos – cause lung cancer and mesothelioma. In addition, the IARC newly confirmed that there is sufficient evidence that asbestos causes ovarian cancer and reconfirmed asbestos causes laryngeal cancer. ADAO continues to serve as the leading voice pushing for a full ban on this lethal mineral.

To read the Surgeon General's full statement, please visit:
www.surgeongeneral.gov/news/pressreleases/pr20090401.html.

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About Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) was founded by asbestos victims and their families in 2004. ADAO seeks to give asbestos victims a united voice to help ensure that their rights are fairly represented and protected, and raise public awareness about the dangers of asbestos exposure and the often deadly asbestos related diseases. ADAO is funded through voluntary contributions and staffed by volunteers. For more information visit www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org.

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