

# The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization “The Voice of the Victims”

**Asbestos is a public-health crisis not a bankruptcy crisis.**

[January Director's Newsletter](#)

Linda Reinstein, Cofounder [Linda@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:Linda@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

Watch for future website updates and information from our Veterans, Legislative, Teachers, Firefighters, Volunteers, Medical, Environmental, Jordan Zevon, Global, ACOR and Student Representatives.

## VICTIM SUPPORT

ADAO has provided support to countless victims of malignant and nonmalignant asbestos related diseases during these past months. To many victims and their families, ADAO has become their lifeline. My sincere thanks to our tireless volunteers who are sharing one of the greatest gifts of all, time and hope to others.

**IMPORTANT ARTICLE:** Andrew Schneider, respected author and journalist, wrote an incredible article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Please take a minute and read his article, if federal legislation is passed, we and untold others will lose our constitutional right to a trial. <http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/nation/9966010.htm>

## GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

I have been working with the Global Asbestos Congress and IBAS to garner global support and endorsements from victims, concerned citizens, Labor, doctors, organizations from Spain, Brazil, Japan, India, Australia, England, Scotland, France and Canada – ADAO now has an impressive collection of letters for Congress. Our global thanks each to all

## THE PRESS AND TELEVISION

ADAO has spent months building its infrastructure, earning a reputation on “The Hill” of credibility and independence, and now we are reaping the benefits with the media. ADAO has been quoted in many articles this week and on January 7th; CNBC gave me the opportunity to debate Mr. Mike Baroody, Executive VP of the National Association of Manufacturers, and Chairman of the Asbestos Alliance Steering Committee.

I discussed the critical issues of tort reform at the expense of the victims and critiqued the “Becker Discussion Draft” highlighting: faulty medical criteria, inadequate funding for research and NO funding for education, prevention and outreach; the general insolvency of trust funds, and the inordinate processing delays for victims. You can view the debate at <http://home.comcast.net/~techchick/adao.htm>

My hats off to Doug for his excellent work with the media. Please email your media contacts to Doug at [Doug@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:Doug@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

## SENATOR MEETINGS AND THE JUDICIARY HEARING



Jordan Zevon, (ADAO National Spokesperson), Ellen Patton (ADAO MD State Representative), Marilyn Amento (ADAO PA State Representative), Doug and I met with key Senators, Chiefs of Staff and Judiciary Staffers last week. We met in the offices of Senator Frist, Senator Dubin, Senator Feinstein, Senator Leahy, Senator Santorum and Senator Boxer, and met directly with Senator Reid. We presented Joey's (age 11) very brave letter at each meeting and it is online at <http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/eLibrary/joey.pdf>

**“United for Asbestos Disease Awareness, Education, Advocacy, Prevention, Support and a Cure.”**

ADAO is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit volunteer organization.

[www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](http://www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

# The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

## “The Voice of the Victims”

Just one week later, Doug and I returned to “The Hill” to present our trust fund legislative opposition points directly to Senator Specter (R-PA). During our meeting we mentioned our Pennsylvania victims Joe Amento, Melvin Murray and Kenny Fillman. We took your letters, stories and photos to each meeting.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Doug and I attended the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing re: FAIR - "The Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act" (S.2290). Hundreds of "stakeholders" attended the hearing, as Chairman Specter presented the 273-page Becker discussion draft that would end nearly all asbestos injury litigation and create an industry-financed trust fund, which was followed by a panel of witnesses who read their testimonies.

To view my testimony submitted to the record refer to: <http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/eLibrary/testimony.pdf> Complete hearings details can be found at <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/webreturn/?url=http://judiciary.senate.gov>

We are not principally opposed to a trust fund, but want the Senate to draft a fair and balanced bill. ADAO believes the victim should have the freedom to exercise their constitutional right to a fair and speedy trial OR choose trust fund compensation, BUT Big Business will NOT support such an opt out clause, as it poses a huge risk to the manufacturers, insurers and reinsurers who want to limit their financial liability and responsibilities.

Presently, ADAO is opposed to the “discussion draft” bill for the following reasons.

- Incorrect, outdated and incomplete Medical Criteria.
- Inordinate compensation delays and ineligibility for the victims.
- Inadequate funding for not only compensation, but also research, education, prevention and outreach.
- No opt out clause for the victim.

**ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS ...** Our fight for asbestos disease awareness and fair and balanced legislation needs YOU...yes all of you.

◆ Remember to email copies of your letters to:  
[ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

1. Support Asbestos Awareness and sign and circulate the petition at [www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](http://www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)
2. Email your one page victim's story that you are willing to publish to [ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)
3. Collect your doctors' opposition to the legislation <http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/eLibrary/doctorsletter.pdf> and return it to [ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org) or fax (310.798.9235).
4. Fax or email a letter to your U.S. Senators <http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/eLibrary/senatorletter.pdf>  
Email ADAO a copy of your letter to [ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)  
[www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) has a free and easy website for contacting your political representatives.
5. Email your loved ones name to our list of innocent victims of asbestos caused diseases to [ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

### WELCOME AND MEET YOUR NEW REPRESENTATIVES

Cathy and Debra, National State Representative Directors, are available to answer questions and help find the perfect volunteer job for you.

[Cathy@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:Cathy@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)  
[Debra@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:Debra@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

- Lindsey - FL
- Kenny - DE
- David -CT
- Bonnie - NJ
- Debi - IN
- Herman - Veterans' Representative
- Lewis - Student Representative
- Jill - ACOR Liaison
- Mardel - Environmental Representative

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

- Research
- Correspondence

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## The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization "The Voice of the Victims"

- Organizing Asbestos Awareness Day on April 1, 2005
- Patient Support
- Fundraising

**Volunteer today by emailing**

[ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](mailto:ACTION@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

**Refer to our complete list of ADAO Volunteers  
Representatives and Updates on our website.**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that ADAO is now a registered nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. This means all donations after 12/21/04 are tax deductible. Hopefully, our new status will encourage more individuals and corporations to make donations, so we can continue our vital efforts in support of all the victims of asbestos related diseases. ~ Alan

*In unity and hope, Linda*

### Archived Newsletters

[December](#) [November](#) [October](#) [September](#)

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