

# SENATE RESOLUTION 376

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
114th CONGRESS  
2nd Session

## Designating the first week of April 2016 as ‘National Asbestos Awareness Week’.

*Whereas* dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

*Whereas* the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

*Whereas* asbestos fibers can cause cancer such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

*Whereas* symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

*Whereas* the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

*Whereas* generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

*Whereas* early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

*Whereas* the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume about 400 metric tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

*Whereas* asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

*Whereas* while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure (1) has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and (2) can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases;

*Whereas* thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

*Whereas* thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

*Whereas* a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

*Whereas* before 1975, asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities including schools;

*Whereas* people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

*Whereas* the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Senate --

- 1) designates the first week of April 2016 as ‘National Asbestos Awareness Week’;
- 2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and
- 3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of Surgeon General.

**The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization**

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