

# SENATE RESOLUTION 66

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
113th CONGRESS  
1st Session

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## Designating the first week of April 2013 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* asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

*Whereas* the expected survival time for those 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 such diseases;

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

*Whereas* the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos, yet continues to consume almost 1100 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the United States;

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

*Whereas* exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

*Whereas* asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

*Whereas* thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

*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* asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

*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 establishment of a 'National Asbestos Awareness Week' would 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 2013 as 'National Asbestos Awareness Week';
- 2) urges the Surgeon General 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**