



2016 ADAO Congressional Staff Briefing Executive Summary

“TSCA Implementation: Prioritizing Asbestos to Protect Public Health and the Environment”

Linda Reinstein, President and Co-Founder, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (CA)

Ahead of signing 2016 TSCA into law, President Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to publicly acknowledge the dangers of asbestos as a known human carcinogen.

ADAO urges EPA to include asbestos among the top ten chemicals for prioritized risk evaluation and regulation under Section 6 of The Lautenberg Act. This position has been formally echoed by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), American Public Health Association (APHA), Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families (SCHF), Environmental Working Group (EWG), and US Sens. Barbara Boxer, Jon Tester, and Dianne Feinstein.

Barry Castleman, ScD, Environmental Consultant

Asbestos is a known human carcinogen and there is no safe level of asbestos exposure.

The 2015 United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported the chloralkali industry accounted for an estimated 90% of U.S. consumption.

Mark Catlin, American Public Health Association (APHA)

Asbestos kills up to 15,000 Americans each year from asbestos-caused lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other cancers.

In 2009, the American Public Health Association (APHA) adopted the policy resolution calling for the global elimination of asbestos and strong prevention measures.

Andy Igrejas, Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families (SCHF)

The EPA's failure to ban asbestos and the related court decisions is what drove TSCA reform the most.

The Lautenberg Act's most important achievement was giving EPA the ability to act on the worst existing chemicals.

Asbestos is at the top of that list. If EPA cannot use the new law to ban asbestos, it will suggest that the reform effort failed.

Brent Kynoch, Executive Director, Environmental Information Association (EIA)

In 2013, a National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study on mesothelioma found that “firefighters in the study had a rate of mesothelioma two times greater than the rate in the U.S. population as a whole.”

Asbestos is still found in U.S. homes, schools, offices, and consumer products, yet most Americans do not know that, cannot identify asbestos and cannot manage the health risk.

Mike Mattmuller, Mesothelioma Patient (MD)

I am the new face of mesothelioma patients, and I am only 34—with a brand new baby girl.

Asbestos is in children's toys and consumer products in the United States, confirmed by several independent investigations in 2000, 2007, and 2015.

Daniel Rosenberg, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

*The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act replaces the 1976 TSCA “least burdensome cost-benefit safety standard”—which prevented EPA from banning asbestos—with a **health-based safety standard** and a requirement to protect “susceptible” populations.*

Even under the “best case scenario” for evaluating and restricting chemicals, it will likely take years for EPA to address even the “worst of the worst” chemicals like asbestos.