

Linda Reinstein, Co-Founder and Mesothelioma Widow  
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization  
June 21, 2010

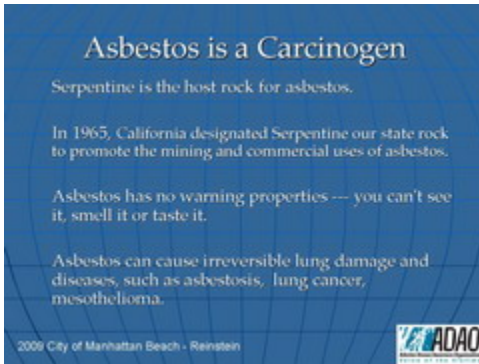


Chairman Chesbro, Vice Chairman Gilmore and Natural Resources Committee Members, thank you for giving me the honor and opportunity to express support for SB 624, legislation that removes serpentine, the host rock for asbestos, as our California State Rock. I am Linda Reinstein, Co-Founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) and a native Californian. This afternoon, I represent more than 7,000 Californians who have been silenced by the deadly asbestos diseases. Today, my testimony is dedicated to the young asbestos victims. Traditionally, mesothelioma and asbestos-related diseases are thought only to afflict the eldest generations. However, the new patient profile shows younger women and men diagnosed with disease under the age for 50.

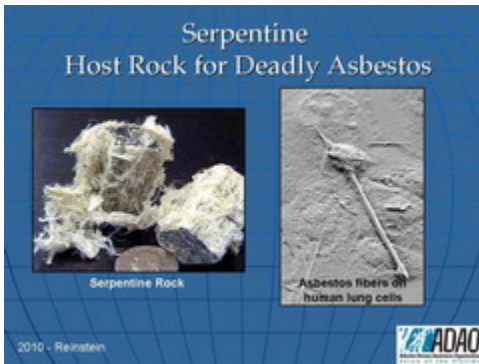


In 2003, my late husband, Alan, was diagnosed with mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer caused only by asbestos. Alan chose to undergo a radical surgical procedure that removed his left rib and lung, pericardium, and replaced his diaphragm. As a result Alan's asbestos exposure 40 years ago, our 10 year-old daughter watched her father slowly die from a preventable disease. Unfortunately, Alan's experience is not unique. Every year, more than 10,000 Americans die from asbestos-caused diseases, yet asbestos has not been banned in the United States.

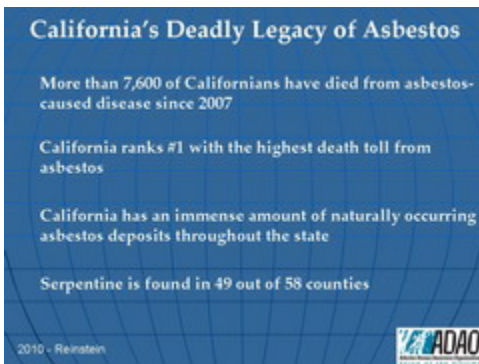
Mining asbestos is no longer a lucrative business in California – but your constituents are still at risk. The World Health Organization, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Surgeon General **ALL** agree: asbestos is a human carcinogen and there is no safe level of exposure.



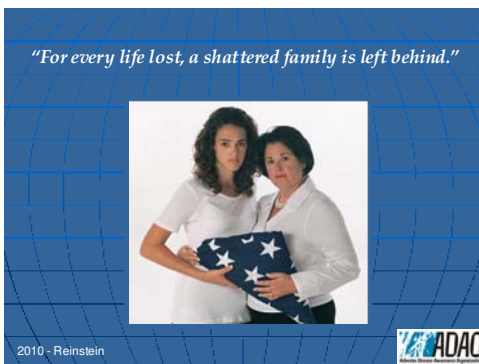
Microscopic asbestos fibers are odorless, tasteless and indestructible. Fibers can remain suspended in the air for days. Once inhaled, asbestos fibers can cause permanent and irreversible damage to vital organs, cancers and respiratory diseases.



California has the dubious distinction of being the state with the highest recorded number of asbestos-related deaths in our nation. Asbestos exposure continues to impact public health, our environment, and economy every day.



In conclusion, on behalf of patients, physicians, labor, organizations and businesses, I urge you to unanimously pass SB 624 out of committee, thus signaling our State's commitment to create a healthier and safer environment for children, parents and businesses. Less than half of the states in the nation have symbolic rocks. With our official gemstone, Benonite, and



mineral, gold, representing our state, we do not need a toxic rock. For every life lost from asbestos-caused disease, a shattered family is left behind. Please expeditiously move to pass SB 624.

**Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization**