

Asbestos Patients and their Families Say
“Listen to Us”
Oppose the So-Called “FACT Act”

February 14, 2017

Hon. Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers,

We are asbestos patients and family members of loved ones who have died or presently suffer from the wrongful and deceitful conduct of asbestos companies and we write to express our strong opposition to the misnamed “Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act” (the FACT Act). Sponsors of the FACT Act claim that the legislation will “increase relief for victims of asbestos.” We are from states and districts across the United States. We are Republicans and Democrats. We represent current and former workers, veterans, police officers, firefighters, homemakers and children. We have come together to express our unquestioned opposition to this legislation.

We have been outraged as we watched the House of Representatives pass this legislation without giving us – *the “Real People,” not of Washington, but the actual victims of asbestos exposures* – a chance to testify on the record about the bill – even though supporters claim it is in our interest!

The *fact is* the so-called FACT Act is not in the interest of asbestos victims. The bill, as it is designed to do, will make it harder for victims to seek justice for their injuries and suffering. It *is* in the interest of the companies that are lobbying for it – the companies that used asbestos, knowing that it was a deadly toxin, exposed their workers and the public, and are now seeking to use Congress to shield them from legal liability for their behavior. The FACT Act is just another example of the rigged system in Washington that places the interests of powerful corporations over the interests of ordinary people.

The FACT Act would force asbestos patients seeking any compensation from a private asbestos trust fund to reveal on a public web site private information including the last four digits of our Social Security numbers, and personal information about our families and kids. This is offensive. The information on this public registry could be used to deny employment, credit, and health, life, and disability insurance. We are also extremely concerned that victims would be more vulnerable to cybercriminals, such as identity thieves, con artists, and other types of predators.

While the legislation invades the privacy of asbestos patients and families, it contains no requirements for transparency from the asbestos industry, which concealed the dangers of asbestos exposure for decades, causing one of the worst public health crises in U.S. history, affecting not just our families, but millions of American families, and that still continues to this day.

The FACT Act is completely one-sided. It requires so-called transparency from asbestos victims but it allows asbestos companies to continue to demand confidentiality of their settlements and hide information about how and when they exposed the public and their workers to asbestos. How can asbestos companies claim they want *transparency*, after they spent decades covering up the dangers of asbestos while we and our family members were unknowingly exposed?

We have heard that the FACT Act is needed because of an epidemic of fraud against the asbestos trusts. But the evidence doesn't support this claim. This bill treats us and other asbestos victims like criminals rather than innocent victims of corporate deceit.

Many of the people who would be hurt by the FACT Act are veterans, who are disproportionately affected by asbestos disease. While veterans make up only about 8 percent of the population, they represent 30 percent of the victims of mesothelioma. A group of 17 national Veterans Service Organizations wrote to Congress last year in opposition to the FACT Act, and yet, not one service member suffering from asbestos disease has ever been asked to testify about how the FACT Act would place burdens on them and their families. Congress should be celebrating our brave and honorable veterans, not making life more difficult for them.

The signatories on this letter represent thousands of people across the country suffering because of asbestos exposure. We would like to be in Washington in person to object to this mean-spirited and dangerous legislation. But most of us can't travel because of our illnesses. Others don't have the resources or the time to come all the way to Washington. But each and every one of us opposes any legislation that would make life more difficult for asbestos victims. We are the real people who matter in this debate and we are determined to stop any legislation that places the interests of the asbestos industry above the rights of innocent victims. The U.S. Congress should honor all veterans and hard-working Americans. Please oppose the FACT Act.

Sincerely,

Sue Vento
Widow of mesothelioma victim (U.S. Congressman Bruce Vento)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Kimberly Ann Lapinski
My father died from Mesothelioma
Baltimore Maryland 21222

Elicia Eberhart-Bliss
Daughter-in-law of mesothelioma victim (Jocelyn Farrar)
Frederick, MD

My name is William Weber,
Bilateral Malignant Mesothelioma Patient
My Mother, Jeanne Weber, who lived in Ohio, died January 6, 2016 of malignant Mesothelioma
age 86.
Philadelphia, PA

Shandi Speedy
Mesothelioma survivor
Austin TX

Billy Speedy
Spouse of mesothelioma survivor
Austin TX

Robert Brittingham
Peritoneal meso patient
Selbyville, DE

Janet S. Markwith
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim, Charles E. Squires
Colonial Beach, VA

Christa Kahuda
Daughter of mesothelioma victim (Jocelyn Farrar)
Mt Pleasant, SC

Karyn Farrar-Bliss
Daughter of mesothelioma victim (Jocelyn Farrar)
Frederick, MD

Pam Wilson
Niece of victim
Des Moines, IA

Michael & Sharon Valach
Father deceased from Mesothelioma
Hiwaseee, Virginia

Kim Beattie
Niece of Mesothelioma victim
West Branch Iowa

Andy R. Goldsmith
Son of a victim
Ellicott City, Md 21042

Karl Farrar
Widow of Meso victim Jocelyn Farrar.
Mount Airy, Maryland

Jeffrey A. Ambrose
Son of Mesothelioma Victim
Evansville, IN

Judy Vanness
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Mechanicsville, VA

Anna Brock
Daughter of Leonard Doyle Hesterley, Jr mesothelioma victim, deceased
Martinsburg, WV

Lisa Rosen
I am the widow of Doug Korthof who died of Mesothelioma on Feb 6, 2012.
Seal Beach, CA

Bill Schane
Peritoneal Mesothelioma Patient
Chesterfield, MO

Ann Robbins Gordon
Widow of a mesothelioma victim
Sorrento (Orlando area), Florida

Vickie L Taylor
I am the widow of Reginald R Taylor, a Mesothelioma Victim
Reno, Nevada.

Nancy C Collins
Widow of mesothelioma victim
Clovis California

Sharon Weston
Child of mesothelioma victim

Winston Salem, NC

Drew Buckley
Mesothelioma Victim
Springfield VA

Marlene Moen (Chernishenko)
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
British Columbia, Canada

Ginette Skelton
Daughter of mesothelioma victim
Long Beach, CA

Cheryl Wolbers Gras
Orphan from mesothelioma.
Brethren, MI

Catherine H. Smith
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Minden, NV

Mark Luciano
Son of a Mesothelioma victim
San Diego, CA

James W. Chesher
Mesothelioma Victim
Summerville, SC

Anne Arnold
Widow of Edgar M. Arrowood, date of Death, May. 9, 2002
Holden Beach, NC

Mindy Ellis
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Royal Oak, Michigan

Lawrence Harris
Lung cancer brought on by asbestos exposure on U.S Navy ships
Palmyra, TN

Daniel Batten
Son of mesothelioma victim, Linda Batten.
Powhatan, VA

Kathrine Vance Righetti
I am the daughter of a mesothelioma victim, deceased April 1999.
Salem, Ohio

Leona G. Domino
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim, Chester M.Domino, deceased June 2014
Medina, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Marta Poling-Goldenne
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Las Vegas, NV

Matthew Hodjera
Mesothelioma Victim - Peritoneal Mesothelioma at 47
Seattle, WA

Marva McMillen
Widow of Larry McMillen Mesothelioma victim
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Jeremy Broyles
My mother, Rene' Worrell, died of malignant mesothelioma on May 25, 2016. She was fifty-six years old.
Hastings, Nebraska

Edward E. Shaffer
Mesothelioma victim
Amherst, Ohio

Emiriana Shubert
My father Larry Goza passed away from mesothelioma
Gresham, Oregon

Gail Guillemette
My husband, Steven Guillemette, passed away in May 2016 from mesothelioma
Winter Springs, Florida

Betty Childers
I am a Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Houston, Texas

William T. Hall III
My wife passed away 1/27/05 at the early age of 57.
Bay County, FL

Lowell Dean Ross
Mesothelioma Victim
Appleton, Wisconsin

David W Green
Brother of Mesothelioma victim George E Green (deceased).
Smithfield, VA

Philip D. Withall
Son of one mesothelioma victim
Tucson, AZ

Sheila A. Milazzo, Ph.D.,
Widow of mesothelioma victim.
Bradenton, FL

Andrew Phillips
Mesothelioma Victim
Riviera Beach, FL

Yvonne Phillips
Wife of Mesothelioma victim
Riviera Beach, FL

Tricia McNamara
Mesothelioma widow
Las Vegas Nevada &
Kailua Kona Hawaii

Kaye D (Henson) Taylor
Wife of mesothelioma victim, Dale L Henson - 1953-2007
Yakima, WA

Joshua Lindenger
Son of Mesothelioma Victim
Parkville, MD

Linda Moore
Wife and widow of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim
Wilmington, DE

Brett Henry
Son of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim
Bradenton, FL

Joelle Patterson
Daughter of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim
Wilmington, DE

Darrin Moore
Son of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim
Wilmington, DE

Jennifer Moore
Daughter of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim
Mansfield Center, CT

Mrs. Bonnie Froelick
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Johnnie Diggs
Mesothelioma Victim
Poquoson, VA

Mrs. Dottie Humphreys
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Newport News, VA

Mrs. Nancy Umstot
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Suffolk, VA

Mr. James Terry Beck
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Norfolk, VA
Ms. Janice J. Elliott
Asbestos-Related Lung Cancer Victim
Elizabeth City, NC

Mr. Roger Daugherty
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Williamsburg, VA

Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Newport News, VA

Mrs. Sarah Hiemstra
Widow of an Asbestosis Victim
Newport News, VA

Mr. Robert Farmer
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Chester, VA

Mr. Michael Farmer
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Newport News, VA

Mr. Earnest Maurice Cooper
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Hampton, VA

Mrs. Linda Briley
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Suffolk, VA

Mrs. Jennifer Y. White
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Hampstead, NC

Xandra Burnette
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim
Norfolk, VA

Mrs. Earnest Cooper
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Hampton, VA

Mr. Derrick Cooper
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Hampton, VA

Jay B. Jackson
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Fredericksburg, VA

Mrs. Jannie Herman
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Chesapeake, VA

Mrs. Helen A. Hurd
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Suwanee, GA

Mrs. Robbie F. Adcock
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim

Seneca, SC

Ms. Carol C. Irizarry
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim
Charleston, SC

Mr. Thomas V. Cannon, Jr.
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Awendaw, SC

Mrs. Patricia L. Burke
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Williamsburg, VA

Mrs. Shirley A. Hatchett
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Smithfield, VA

Mrs. Vera L. Adams
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Eufaula, AL

Mrs. Alice J. Blanchette
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Gloucester, VA

Mrs. Anne F. Ervin
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Hampton, VA

Mrs. Theresa A. Gibbs
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Gloucester, VA

Mary E. Woodring
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim
Virginia Beach, VA

Michael P. Kerekesh, Jr.
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Virginia Beach, VA

James K. Kerekesh
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim
Virginia Beach, VA

Karen R. Harvin
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim
Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Donald L. Murren
Mesothelioma Victim
Newport News, VA

Mrs. Mary L. Pollard
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Robert F. Brown
Mesothelioma Victim
Hayes, VA

Mrs. Carol W. Pavlik
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Poquoson, VA

Mrs. Margaret K. Serven
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Marshfield, MA

Mrs. Lydia Thomas
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim
Yorktown, VA

Mrs. Amy E. Voltaire
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim
Yorktown, VA

Mrs. Barbara J. Moore
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Poquoson, VA

Lena P. Stone
Step daughter of Mesothelima victim, Eugene K. Chapman
Williamsburg, VA

Agnes Dell
Mesothelioma Victim
Elkton, MD

Joan Burkle
Widow of mesothelioma victim
Carmel, Indiana

Patricia Miles
Widow of mesothelioma victim
Methuen, MA

Kathleen Horn
Daughter of Robert F. Horn, mesothelioma victim
Prescott, AZ

Kelley A. Horn
Daughter of Robert F. Horn, mesothelioma victim
Flagstaff, AZ

Robert C. Horn
Son of Robert F. Horn, mesothelioma victim
San Jose, CA

Terry Rhoads
Asbestos widow as of May 2016
Denison, Tx

William R. Griffin Jr.
Mesothelioma patient
Texarkana, Texas

Jessica Hagen
Daughter of Deceased Mesothelioma Victim
Henderson, NV

Mary J Petersen
Wife of the late Howard F Petersen, asbestos victim.
Seattle/Edmonds, WA

Wayne McKee
Diagnosed with mesothelioma last May
Highland, Ca.

Cheryl McKee
Wife of Wayne McKee, mesothelioma patient
Highland, Ca.

Mrs. Elisabeth W. Lifsey
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim
Henrico, VA

Thomas White
Mesothelioma patient
Norfolk, VA

Violet Moore
Widow of Robert C Moore, mesothelioma victim
Bakersfield, CA.

Amy M. Triplett
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim
Parkville, MD

Joseph Wilkinson, Jr.
Son of Meso Victim
Levittown, PA

Stephen Poloway
Son of Meso Victim
Phoenixville, PA

Larisa Ashcraft
Daughter of Meso victim
Melborne, KY

Jacquie Kensler
Daughter of Meso victim
Orient, Ohio

Shana Holthaus-Franz
Daughter of Meso Victim
Demossville, KY

Orlando Durr
Husband of Meso Patient
Montgomery, AL

DeShawn Durr
Montgomery, AL
Mesothelioma Patient

Janet Cretella
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Naples, FL

Debra Dixon
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim
Charlotte, Michigan

Jock Dixon
Son of Mesothelioma Victim
Charlotte, Michigan

Mary Jane Williams
Mesothelioma Patient
Springfield, Ohio

Loring Williams
Husband of Mesothelioma Patient
Springfield, Ohio

Julie Gundlach
Mesothelioma Patient
St. Louis, Missouri

LaTanyta Manuel
Mesothelioma Widow
Canton, Michigan

Andrew D. Manuel
Son of Mesothelioma Victim
Canton, Michigan
Dwayne Manuel
Son of Mesothelioma Victim
Canton, Michigan

Tacarra Manuel
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim
Canton, Michigan

Nancy L. Waite
Mesothelioma Widow
Mansfield, Ohio

Jill A. Waite
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim
Mansfield, Ohio

Kenneth H. Bill
Family Member of Mesothelioma Victim
Marion, Ohio

Gary Leif
Son of Orville H. Lervold, deceased in 2005 from Mesothelioma
Roseburg, Oregon