

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating the first week of April as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating the first week of April 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 mesothe-
lioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take be-
tween 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diag-
nosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

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

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

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, United States consumers continue to purchase tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

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

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases 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 designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” for the 21st year will continue to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the first week of April as “Na-
3 tional Asbestos Awareness Week”;

4 (2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and
5 educate people about the public health issue of as-
6 bestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their
7 health; and

8 (3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of
9 the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolu-
10 tion to the Office of the Surgeon General.