



February 20, 2018

The Honorable Todd Richardson
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 308
Jefferson City, MO 65101
cc: Honorables Haahr, McCann-Beatty, and the Missouri General Assembly

Dear Speaker Richardson:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Kaufman Fund and the U.S. veterans we serve, we are writing to express our sincerest opposition to House Bill 1645, the "Asbestos Bankruptcy Transparency Act".

The bill would shield corporations from being held accountable for deadly asbestos-related diseases like Mesothelioma and delay justice for victims. The bill would specifically impose burdens on asbestos victims, including active and retired service members. It would force victims and their families to jump through several expensive and time-consuming hoops before being allowed to move forward with a claim in state court.


Those suffering from mesothelioma, on average have 12 to 18 months to live. Unfortunately, the asbestos industry is seeking to take advantage of this fact. Their goal: To delay and deny until victims die.

Missouri veterans were extensively exposed to asbestos products not only during military service but in their civilian work at Missouri's automobile plants, manufacturing sites and in the construction trades.

It is wrong to allow asbestos companies to stonewall their victims, especially those that served their country. Missouri lawmakers should NOT allow out-of-state corporations who knowingly hid the dangers of asbestos and caused hundreds of thousands of deaths to avoid accountability.

Our elected officials should be fighting for asbestos victims and their families -- not those who harmed them. We respectfully request, you, Mr. Speaker and the Missouri General Assembly oppose HB 1645.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Wayne Kaufman" in a cursive script.

Wayne Kaufman, President
The Kaufman Fund
www.thekaufmanfund.org