

Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act

Summary – Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici

Asbestos in all forms is known to be a leading cause of mesothelioma, lung cancer, and other chronic respiratory diseases. Asbestos is still legal in the United States, even though it has been banned in most other developed countries. Although the EPA included asbestos on its list of the first ten chemicals for risk reviews under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA's safety assessment must be completed before EPA can consider any controls on asbestos.

What the bill would do

- This legislation amends TSCA to require the EPA to identify and assess known uses of, and exposures to all forms of asbestos.
- This bill requires that, within 18 months of enactment, the EPA must impose restrictions on the use of asbestos necessary to eliminate human or environmental exposure to all forms of asbestos.
- Within one year of rule issuance, no person will be permitted to manufacture, process, use or distribute in commerce asbestos other than described in EPA's rule.
- The President may grant limited national security exemptions so long as no reasonable alternative to asbestos exists, and use does not result in unreasonable health risks.
 - o The exemption duration may not exceed three years.
 - o The President may grant an additional exemption.

About Alan Reinstein

The bill is named after Alan Reinstein, who passed away in 2006 at the age of 66 from mesothelioma, a disease caused by exposure to asbestos. Alan's wife, Linda, co-founded the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) in 2004.

Endorsements

ADAO, the American Public Health Association (APHA), Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD), Libby, MT, Environmental Information Association (EIA), Environmental Working Group (EWG), Global Ban Asbestos Network (GBAN), Less Cancer, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families (SCHF), and internationally, Associação Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto (ABREA).