

**Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change
Hearing on
“Mismanaging Chemical Risks: EPA’s Failure to Protect Workers”
March 13, 2019**

Ms. Wendy Hutchinson, Baltimore Teachers Union and American Federation of Teachers

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)

1. During the hearing, it was suggested several times that safety data sheets for various chemicals provide enough information for workers to protect themselves. Safety Data Sheets for asbestos provide precautionary statements including this one – “Do not breath dust.”

- a. Have you been provided a safety data sheet for asbestos by your employer?

RESPONSE: No

- b. Is the precautionary statement “Do not breathe dust” useful to you? Are you able to change your behavior, without a change in your workplace conditions, to avoid breathing dust?

RESPONSE: It is useful to know how to behave under certain conditions. I would not be able to change my workplace conditions to comply.

- c. Does your employer provide you with any protective equipment to avoid exposure to asbestos?

RESPONSE: No

- d. How would wearing protective equipment, such as a respirator, impact your ability to teach?

RESPONSE: It would make it impossible to teach.