

February 14, 2017

Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC

Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC

Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC

Honorable John Conyers  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary  
Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC

**Re: Veterans Service Organization oppose the “Furthering Asbestos Claims  
Transparency (FACT) Act”**

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McCarthy, Leader Pelosi, Whip Hoyer, Chairman Goodlatte, and  
Ranking Member Conyers:

We, the undersigned Veterans Service Organizations oppose the “Furthering Asbestos Claims  
Transparency (FACT) Act.” We have continuously expressed our united opposition to this  
legislation via written testimony to the House Judiciary Committee, House Leadership, in-person  
meetings and phone calls with members of Congress. It is extremely disappointing that even with  
our combined opposition, the FACT Act will be marked up in the House Judiciary Committee  
later this week.

Veterans across the country disproportionately make up those who are dying and afflicted with  
mesothelioma and other asbestos related illnesses and injuries. Although veterans represent only  
8% of the nation’s population, they comprise 30% of all known mesothelioma deaths.

When our veterans and their family members file claims with the asbestos bankruptcy trusts to  
receive compensation for harm caused by asbestos companies, they submit personal, highly  
sensitive information such as how and when they were exposed to the deadly product, sensitive  
health information, and more. The FACT Act would require asbestos trusts to publish their  
sensitive information on a public database, and include how much money they received for their  
claim as well as other private information. Forcing our veterans to publicize their work histories,  
medical conditions, majority of their social security numbers, and information about their  
children and families is an offensive invasion of privacy to the men and women who have  
honorably served, and it does nothing to assure their adequate compensation or to prevent future  
asbestos exposures and deaths.

Additionally, the FACT Act helps asbestos companies add significant time and delay paying trust  
claims to our veterans and their families by putting burdensome and costly reporting requirements  
on trusts, including those that already exist. Trusts will instead spend valuable time and resources  
complying with these additional and unnecessary requirements delaying desperately needed  
compensation for our veterans and their families to cover medical bills and end of life care.

The FACT Act is a bill that its supporters claim will help asbestos victims, but the reality is that this bill only helps companies and manufacturers who knowingly exposed asbestos to our honorable men and women who have made sacrifices for our country.

We urgently ask on behalf of our members across the nation that you oppose the FACT Act.

Please contact Aleks Morosky, National Legislative Director, Military Order of the Purple Heart at (703) 642-5360 or "aleksmorosky@purpleheart.org" with any questions.

Signed:

Air Force Association

Air Force Sergeants Association

Air Force Women Officers Association

AMVETS

AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service, Inc.

Fleet Reserve Association

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.

National Defense Council

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America

The Retired Enlisted Association

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association

US Army Warrant Officers Association

Vietnam Veterans of America