

**Asbestos Patients and their Families Say**  
**“Listen to Us”**  
**Oppose the So-Called “FACT Act”**

February 14, 2017

Hon. Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers,

We are asbestos patients and family members of loved ones who have died or presently suffer from the wrongful and deceitful conduct of asbestos companies and we write to express our strong opposition to the misnamed “Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act” (the FACT Act). Sponsors of the FACT Act claim that the legislation will “increase relief for victims of asbestos.” We are from states and districts across the United States. We are Republicans and Democrats. We represent current and former workers, veterans, police officers, firefighters, homemakers and children. We have come together to express our unquestioned opposition to this legislation.

We have been outraged as we watched the House of Representatives pass this legislation without giving us – *the “Real People,” not of Washington, but the actual victims of asbestos exposures* – a chance to testify on the record about the bill – even though supporters claim it is in our interest!

The *fact is* the so-called FACT Act is not in the interest of asbestos victims. The bill, as it is designed to do, will make it harder for victims to seek justice for their injuries and suffering. It *is* in the interest of the companies that are lobbying for it – the companies that used asbestos, knowing that it was a deadly toxin, exposed their workers and the public, and are now seeking to use Congress to shield them from legal liability for their behavior. The FACT Act is just another example of the rigged system in Washington that places the interests of powerful corporations over the interests of ordinary people.

The FACT Act would force asbestos patients seeking any compensation from a private asbestos trust fund to reveal on a public web site private information including the last four digits of our Social Security numbers, and personal information about our families and kids. This is offensive. The information on this public registry could be used to deny employment, credit, and health, life, and disability insurance. We are also extremely concerned that victims would be more vulnerable to cybercriminals, such as identity thieves, con artists, and other types of predators.

While the legislation invades the privacy of asbestos patients and families, it contains no requirements for transparency from the asbestos industry, which concealed the dangers of asbestos exposure for decades, causing one of the worst public health crises in U.S. history, affecting not just our families, but millions of American families, and that still continues to this day.

The FACT Act is completely one-sided. It requires so-called transparency from asbestos victims but it allows asbestos companies to continue to demand confidentiality of their settlements and hide information about how and when they exposed the public and their workers to asbestos. How can asbestos companies claim they want *transparency*, after they spent decades covering up the dangers of asbestos while we and our family members were unknowingly exposed?

We have heard that the FACT Act is needed because of an epidemic of fraud against the asbestos trusts. But the evidence doesn't support this claim. This bill treats us and other asbestos victims like criminals rather than innocent victims of corporate deceit.

Many of the people who would be hurt by the FACT Act are veterans, who are disproportionately affected by asbestos disease. While veterans make up only about 8 percent of the population, they represent 30 percent of the victims of mesothelioma. A group of 17 national Veterans Service Organizations wrote to Congress last year in opposition to the FACT Act, and yet, not one service member suffering from asbestos disease has ever been asked to testify about how the FACT Act would place burdens on them and their families. Congress should be celebrating our brave and honorable veterans, not making life more difficult for them.

The signatories on this letter represent thousands of people across the country suffering because of asbestos exposure. We would like to be in Washington in person to object to this mean-spirited and dangerous legislation. But most of us can't travel because of our illnesses. Others don't have the resources or the time to come all the way to Washington. But each and every one of us opposes any legislation that would make life more difficult for asbestos victims. We are the real people who matter in this debate and we are determined to stop any legislation that places the interests of the asbestos industry above the rights of innocent victims. The U.S. Congress should honor all veterans and hard-working Americans. Please oppose the FACT Act.

Sincerely,

Sue Vento  
Widow of mesothelioma victim (U.S. Congressman Bruce Vento)  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Kimberly Ann Lapinski  
My father died from Mesothelioma  
Baltimore Maryland 21222

Elicia Eberhart-Bliss  
Daughter-in-law of mesothelioma victim (Jocelyn Farrar)  
Frederick, MD

My name is William Weber,  
Bilateral Malignant Mesothelioma Patient  
My Mother, Jeanne Weber, who lived in Ohio, died January 6, 2016 of malignant Mesothelioma  
age 86.  
Philadelphia, PA

Shandi Speedy  
Mesothelioma survivor  
Austin TX

Billy Speedy  
Spouse of mesothelioma survivor  
Austin TX

Robert Brittingham  
Peritoneal meso patient  
Selbyville, DE

Janet S. Markwith  
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim, Charles E. Squires  
Colonial Beach, VA

Christa Kahuda  
Daughter of mesothelioma victim (Jocelyn Farrar)  
Mt Pleasant, SC

Karyn Farrar-Bliss  
Daughter of mesothelioma victim (Jocelyn Farrar)  
Frederick, MD

Pam Wilson  
Niece of victim  
Des Moines, IA

Michael & Sharon Valach  
Father deceased from Mesothelioma  
Hiwasee, Virginia

Kim Beattie  
Niece of Mesothelioma victim  
West Branch Iowa

Andy R. Goldsmith  
Son of a victim  
Ellicott City, Md 21042

Karl Farrar  
Widow of Meso victim Jocelyn Farrar.  
Mount Airy, Maryland

Jeffrey A. Ambrose  
Son of Mesothelioma Victim  
Evansville, IN

Judy Vanness  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Mechanicsville, VA

Anna Brock  
Daughter of Leonard Doyle Hesterley, Jr mesothelioma victim, deceased  
Martinsburg, WV

Lisa Rosen  
I am the widow of Doug Korthof who died of Mesothelioma on Feb 6, 2012.  
Seal Beach, CA

Bill Schane  
Peritoneal Mesothelioma Patient  
Chesterfield, MO

Ann Robbins Gordon  
Widow of a mesothelioma victim  
Sorrento (Orlando area), Florida

Vickie L Taylor  
I am the widow of Reginald R Taylor, a Mesothelioma Victim  
Reno, Nevada.

Nancy C Collins  
Widow of mesothelioma victim  
Clovis California

Sharon Weston  
Child of mesothelioma victim

Winston Salem, NC

Drew Buckley  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Springfield VA

Marlene Moen (Chernishenko)  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
British Columbia, Canada

Ginette Skelton  
Daughter of mesothelioma victim  
Long Beach, CA

Cheryl Wolbers Gras  
Orphan from mesothelioma.  
Brethren, MI

Catherine H. Smith  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Minden, NV

Mark Luciano  
Son of a Mesothelioma victim  
San Diego, CA

James W. Chesher  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Summerville, SC

Anne Arnold  
Widow of Edgar M. Arrowood, date of Death, May. 9, 2002  
Holden Beach, NC

Mindy Ellis  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Royal Oak, Michigan

Lawrence Harris  
Lung cancer brought on by asbestos exposure on U.S Navy ships  
Palmyra, TN

Daniel Batten  
Son of mesothelioma victim, Linda Batten.  
Powhatan, VA

Kathrine Vance Righetti  
I am the daughter of a mesothelioma victim, deceased April 1999.  
Salem, Ohio

Leona G. Domino  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim, Chester M.Domino, deceased June 2014  
Medina, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Marta Poling-Goldenne  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Las Vegas, NV

Matthew Hodjera  
Mesothelioma Victim - Peritoneal Mesothelioma at 47  
Seattle, WA

Marva McMillen  
Widow of Larry McMillen Mesothelioma victim  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Jeremy Broyles  
My mother, Rene' Worrell, died of malignant mesothelioma on May 25, 2016. She was fifty-six  
years old.  
Hastings, Nebraska

Edward E. Shaffer  
Mesothelioma victim  
Amherst, Ohio

Emiriana Shubert  
My father Larry Goza passed away from mesothelioma  
Gresham, Oregon

Gail Guillemette  
My husband, Steven Guillemette, passed away in May 2016 from mesothelioma  
Winter Springs, Florida

Betty Childers  
I am a Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Houston, Texas

William T. Hall III  
My wife passed away 1/27/05 at the early age of 57.  
Bay County, FL

Lowell Dean Ross  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Appleton, Wisconsin

David W Green  
Brother of Mesothelioma victim George E Green (deceased).  
Smithfield, VA

Philip D. Wlthall  
Son of one mesothelioma victim  
Tucson, AZ

Sheila A. Milazzo, Ph.D.,  
Widow of mesothelioma victim.  
Bradenton, FL

Andrew Phillips  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Riviera Beach, FL

Yvonne Phillips  
Wife of Mesothelioma victim  
Riviera Beach, FL

Tricia McNamara  
Mesothelioma widow  
Las Vegas Nevada &  
Kailua Kona Hawaii

Kaye D (Henson) Taylor  
Wife of mesothelioma victim, Dale L Henson - 1953-2007  
Yakima, WA

Joshua Lindenger  
Son of Mesothelioma Victim  
Parkville, MD

Linda Moore  
Wife and widow of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim  
Wilmington, DE

Brett Henry  
Son of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim  
Bradenton, FL

Joelle Patterson  
Daughter of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim  
Wilmington, DE

Darrin Moore  
Son of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim  
Wilmington, DE

Jennifer Moore  
Daughter of James F. Moore, mesothelioma victim  
Mansfield Center, CT

Mrs. Bonnie Froelick  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Johnnie Diggs  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Poquoson, VA

Mrs. Dottie Humphreys  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Newport News, VA

Mrs. Nancy Umstot  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Suffolk, VA

Mr. James Terry Beck  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Norfolk, VA  
Ms. Janice J. Elliott  
Asbestos-Related Lung Cancer Victim  
Elizabeth City, NC

Mr. Roger Daugherty  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Williamsburg, VA

Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Newport News, VA

Mrs. Sarah Hiemstra  
Widow of an Asbestosis Victim  
Newport News, VA



Mr. Robert Farmer  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Chester, VA

Mr. Michael Farmer  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Newport News, VA

Mr. Earnest Maurice Cooper  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Hampton, VA

Mrs. Linda Briley  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Suffolk, VA

Mrs. Jennifer Y. White  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Hampstead, NC

Xandra Burnette  
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Norfolk, VA

Mrs. Earnest Cooper  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Hampton, VA

Mr. Derrick Cooper  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Hampton, VA

Jay B. Jackson  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Fredericksburg, VA

Mrs. Jannie Herman  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Chesapeake, VA

Mrs. Helen A. Hurd  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Suwanee, GA

Mrs. Robbie F. Adcock  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim

Seneca, SC

Ms. Carol C. Irizarry  
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Charleston, SC

Mr. Thomas V. Cannon, Jr.  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Awendaw, SC

Mrs. Patricia L. Burke  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Williamsburg, VA

Mrs. Shirley A. Hatchett  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Smithfield, VA

Mrs. Vera L. Adams  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Eufaula, AL

Mrs. Alice J. Blanchette  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Gloucester, VA

Mrs. Anne F. Ervin  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Hampton, VA

Mrs. Theresa A. Gibbs  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Gloucester, VA

Mary E. Woodring  
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Virginia Beach, VA

Michael P. Kerekesh, Jr.  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Virginia Beach, VA

James K. Kerekesh  
Son of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Virginia Beach, VA

Karen R. Harvin  
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Donald L. Murren  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Newport News, VA

Mrs. Mary L. Pollard  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Robert F. Brown  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Hayes, VA

Mrs. Carol W. Pavlik  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Poquoson, VA

Mrs. Margaret K. Serven  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Marshfield, MA

Mrs. Lydia Thomas  
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Yorktown, VA

Mrs. Amy E. Voltaire  
Daughter of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Yorktown, VA

Mrs. Barbara J. Moore  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Poquoson, VA

Lena P. Stone  
Step daughter of Mesothelima victim, Eugene K. Chapman  
Williamsburg, VA

Agnes Dell  
Mesothelioma Victim  
Elkton, MD

Joan Burkle  
Widow of mesothelioma victim  
Carmel, Indiana

Patricia Miles  
Widow of mesothelioma victim  
Methuen, MA

Kathleen Horn  
Daughter of Robert F. Horn, mesothelioma victim  
Prescott, AZ

Kelley A. Horn  
Daughter of Robert F. Horn, mesothelioma victim  
Flagstaff, AZ

Robert C. Horn  
Son of Robert F. Horn, mesothelioma victim  
San Jose, CA

Terry Rhoads  
Asbestos widow as of May 2016  
Denison, Tx

William R. Griffin Jr.  
Mesothelioma patient  
Texarkana, Texas

Jessica Hagen  
Daughter of Deceased Mesothelioma Victim  
Henderson, NV

Mary J Petersen  
Wife of the late Howard F Petersen, asbestos victim.  
Seattle/Edmonds, WA

Wayne McKee  
Diagnosed with mesothelioma last May  
Highland, Ca.

Cheryl McKee  
Wife of Wayne McKee, mesothelioma patient  
Highland, Ca.

Mrs. Elisabeth W. Lifsey  
Widow of a Mesothelioma Victim  
Henrico, VA

Thomas White  
Mesothelioma patient  
Norfolk, VA

Violet Moore  
Widow of Robert C Moore, mesothelioma victim  
Bakersfield, CA.

Amy M. Triplett  
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim  
Parkville, MD

Joseph Wilkinson, Jr.  
Son of Meso Victim  
Levittown, PA

Stephen Poloway  
Son of Meso Victim  
Phoenixville, PA

Larisa Ashcraft  
Daughter of Meso victim  
Melborne, KY

Jacquie Kensler  
Daughter of Meso victim  
Orient, Ohio

Shana Holthaus-Franz  
Daughter of Meso Victim  
Demossville, KY

Orlando Durr  
Husband of Meso Patient  
Montgomery, AL

DeShawn Durr  
Montgomery, AL  
Mesothelioma Patient

Janet Cretella  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Naples, FL

Debra Dixon  
Widow of Mesothelioma Victim  
Charlotte, Michigan

Jock Dixon  
Son of Mesothelioma Victim  
Charlotte, Michigan

Mary Jane Williams  
Mesothelioma Patient  
Springfield, Ohio

Loring Williams  
Husband of Mesothelioma Patient  
Springfield, Ohio

Julie Gundlach  
Mesothelioma Patient  
St. Louis, Missouri

LaTanyta Manuel  
Mesothelioma Widow  
Canton, Michigan

Andrew D. Manuel  
Son of Mesothelioma Victim  
Canton, Michigan  
Dwayne Manuel  
Son of Mesothelioma Victim  
Canton, Michigan

Tacarra Manuel  
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim  
Canton, Michigan

Nancy L. Waite  
Mesothelioma Widow  
Mansfield, Ohio

Jill A. Waite  
Daughter of Mesothelioma Victim  
Mansfield, Ohio

Kenneth H. Bill  
Family Member of Mesothelioma Victim  
Marion, Ohio

Gary Leif  
Son of Orville H. Lervold, deceased in 2005 from Mesothelioma  
Roseburg, Oregon