

# SENATE RESOLUTION 57

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
111th CONGRESS  
1st Session

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## Designating the first week of April 2009 as 'National Asbestos Awareness Week'

*Whereas* dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

*Whereas* the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

*Whereas* asbestos fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

*Whereas* asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

*Whereas* the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

*Whereas* generally little is known about late stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases and there is no cure for such diseases;

*Whereas* early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognosis;

*Whereas* the United States has reduced its consumption of asbestos substantially yet continues to consume almost 2,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

*Whereas* asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

*Whereas* exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

*Whereas* asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

*Whereas* thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

*Whereas* thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

*Whereas* a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

*Whereas* asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

*Whereas* people in the small community of Libby, Montana have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average;

*Whereas* the establishment of a 'National Asbestos Awareness Week' would raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Senate --

designates the first week of April 2009 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Surgeon General.

