

LEGISLATIVE ALERT—TELL SENATOR FEINSTEIN TO SUPPORT S. 1125, THE FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS INJURY RESOLUTION ACT OF 2003

Asbestos litigation could cost our economy \$275 billion dollars (RAND Study)—more than the 09/11 attacks, the Enron collapse, or all of the Superfund sites combined. The Problem?-- most of the people filing lawsuits aren't sick.

Claims have been on the rise since the early 1980's, with some 300,000 cases clogging our state and federal courts, and the number growing each year. **The Rand Institute reports that 75 to 90 percent of the plaintiffs filing claims are not sick with asbestos disease.** This has greatly depleted the limited resources that are available to compensate the truly sick, and caused enormous harm to workers, pensioners, and our already beleaguered economy.

Nearly 70 asbestos defendants have filed for bankruptcy, and more than 8,400 businesses have been dragged into the expensive web of litigation. Many of these "new defendants," are small businesses like general contractors and auto parts stores that never made asbestos or asbestos containing products.

(NAME OF ASSOCIATION) has joined The California Coalition for Asbestos Litigation Reform--a broad group of Chambers, trade associations, insurers, asbestos health victims, veterans, defendant businesses, and plaintiff's lawyers who are asking Senator Feinstein to support S. 1125, the "Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act of 2003."

This legislation was crafted by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), in collaboration with Senate Democrats, medical victims of asbestos, organized labor, manufacturers, and insurers. Discussions will continue in the coming weeks to ensure broad, bi-partisan support for the bill.

Specifically, this legislation would fix the current broken claims system by:

1. Taking asbestos claims out of the tort system, and moving them to a special 5 Judge administrative panel to be housed in the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government.
2. Establishing a \$ 108 billion trust with which to pay present and future asbestos claimants--ensuring those who need help will be able to get it expeditiously.
3. Establishing objective medical standards for claimants to meet in order to access monetary compensation or ongoing medical monitoring (this includes all levels of asbestos exposure, and asbestos disease). This would also reserve the bulk of compensation for the truly sick.
4. Providing certainty and finality for asbestos defendants, including specific criteria for determining their total contribution to the fund, and overall asbestos liability.

YOU CAN HELP—CONTACT SENATOR FEINSTEIN & ASK HER TO SUPPORT S. 1125 TODAY!

San Francisco

1 Post St. Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 393-0707
(415) 393-0710 fax

Washington, D.C.

331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

Los Angeles

11111 Santa Monica Blvd. #915
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 914-7300
(310) 914-7318 (fax)

Fresno

1130 O. St., Ste 2446
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 485-7430

San Diego

750 "B" St., Suite 1030
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 231-9702
(619) 231-1108 fax

To view a sample letter, or request talking points, please contact (NAME OF STAFF CONTACT).

To learn more about how you can help this grassroots advocacy effort in California, please contact Todd Stenhouse, at todd@giarrizzoconsulting.com, or by phone at (916) 737-9331. For more information please visit www.commonssensenow.net