



*Attorneys at Law*

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Thanks to a resolution passed by the US Senate, the first week of April 2011 has been designated as National Asbestos Awareness Week.

Senate Resolution 63 is intended to raise awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases among the population of people who have been exposed to the fiber, and it points out that thousands of people die from asbestos-related diseases every year in the US. The resolution also “urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health.”

The resolution was introduced by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), while cosponsors and key supporters included Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Patty Murray (D-WA) and Harry Reid (D-NV).