

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

INTRODUCED BY S. GUNDERSON

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CARD CLINIC.

WHEREAS, dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted; and

WHEREAS, the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage; and

WHEREAS, asbestos fibers can cause cancer, including LUNG CANCER, mesothelioma, asbestosis, PLEURAL DISEASES, and other health problems; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves; and

~~WHEREAS, the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months; and~~

WHEREAS, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases; and

WHEREAS, early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and may improve the prognoses of those patients; and

WHEREAS, although the ~~consumption~~ USE of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to ~~consume~~ IMPORT tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases and thousands more die every year from those diseases; and

WHEREAS, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to the prevention of asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases; and

WHEREAS, thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has

been a cause of occupational cancer; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards; and

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

WHEREAS, LEGACY ASBESTOS REMAINS A HAZARD DUE TO VERMICULITE INSULATION STILL FOUND IN MILLIONS
OF HOMES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS; AND

WHEREAS, people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related CANCERS AND NONMALIGNANT LUNG diseases, including LUNG CANCER AND mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than individuals in the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTIFORM FIBERS, SIMILAR TO LIBBY AMPHIBOLE, ARE FOUND
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES; AND

WHEREAS, the Center for Asbestos Related Disease is the nation's leading ONLY DEDICATED diagnostic and clinic-treatment facilities of FACILITY FOR illness related to asbestos; and

WHEREAS, the ~~clinical~~ SCIENTIFIC and medical expertise gained at the Center for Asbestos Related Disease, ~~clinic~~ ALSO KNOWN AS THE CARD CLINIC, serves as a ~~resource to~~ CORE ASSET FOR those suffering from asbestos-related diseases across the state of Montana and the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

The Center for Asbestos Related Disease is designated as a Center of Excellence in Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD CLINIC).

- END -