



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

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February 4, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
3'03 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1705 Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McCarthy and Minority Whip Hoyer,

I am writing today on behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A. in opposition to H.R. 526, the Furthering Asbestos Claims Transparency (FACT) Act of 2015. The FACT Act adds insult to injury for veterans and their families at a time when they are suffering from the devastating effects of asbestos exposure.

Unfortunately, it is no secret that many of those who have served in the military have suffered greatly from exposure to asbestos during their time in uniform, and again in the civilian workforce. While on active duty, many service members were exposed to asbestos at military installations, shipyards, and housing. In addition, many modes of military transportation like ships, tanks, automobiles and aircraft often relied heavily on asbestos-containing products, with asbestos commonly used in electric wiring insulation, brake pads and clutch pads on jeeps, tanks and airplanes. After their service and returning home from defending our country, many veterans chose careers in the trades, shipyards, manufacturing and foundries, where they were also exposed to asbestos containing products. After a lifetime of repeated exposure, the reality is that **although veterans represent only 8% of the nation's population, they comprise an astonishing 30% of all known mesothelioma deaths that have occurred in this country.**<sup>(1)</sup>

Despite what the proponents of this bill claim, the FACT Act was written to benefit asbestos corporations and their insurers, not their victims. This bill would delay compensation to veterans and their families suffering from the effects of asbestos exposure. Delaying justice for any veteran suffering from the fatal effects of these diseases is offensive to our brave men and women in uniform.

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(1) *Military.com* ([www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/asbestos-and-the-military-history-exposure-assistance.html](http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/asbestos-and-the-military-history-exposure-assistance.html))

In addition, the FACT Act violates veterans' privacy by forcing the asbestos trusts to publically expose veterans' personally identifiable information. This bill unnecessarily intrudes upon all asbestos victims and their families' privacy, including our veterans who have fought bravely to defend our country.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart firmly believes that H.R. 526 is unnecessary, unfair, and only benefits the asbestos industry rather than our veterans who proudly served their country and were unknowingly exposed to this deadly substance.

I respectfully call upon Congress to stand with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A. and our veterans in opposing H.R. 526.

Thank you,



J. Patrick Little  
National Commander