



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

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October 8, 2013

The American Legion has noted that SB 13 has been voted out of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor.

The Wisconsin American Legion has made a careful study of the ramifications of SB 13 as relates to asbestos and Mesothelioma and has gone on record in opposition to the legislation. The Department Executive Committee voted unanimously to oppose SB 13.

The Wisconsin American Legion is disappointed that the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor has chosen to advance this issue despite the opposition of veterans and veterans groups from across the state.

Now that SB 13 has emerged from committee, we hope that the Senate and Majority Leader Fitzgerald, a fellow veteran, will ultimately stand with the Wisconsin American Legion and not allow SB 13 to be scheduled for a floor vote as currently written.

Many Wisconsin veterans were exposed to asbestos during their military service. Of those who suffer the effects of Mesothelioma, thirty percent (30%) are veterans.

The effect of passing this legislation would be to place an undue delay for veteran's seeking to enforce their rights through litigation. As an additional consequence, unreasonable burdens of proof would be placed on veterans suffering the effects of Mesothelioma and their family members.

I am urging our members and all concerned to contact their elected representatives in Madison and remind them that the Wisconsin American Legion opposes the legislation and urges the Wisconsin State Senate to reject SB 13 as written.

Respectfully,

Kenneth J. Rynes, Commander
The American Legion
Department of Wisconsin