

**Texas  
Coalition of  
Veterans  
Organizations**

*"The Voice of Veterans in Texas"*

PO Box 140527, Austin, Texas 78714

Tel: 512-472-4138

Website: <http://www.texascoalitionofvetsorganizations.org/>

Capt Morgan Little  
USNR (retired)  
Chairman

27 April 2015

Dear Congressman Farenthold,

Major James  
Cunningham  
USAR (retired)  
Vice Chairman

SGT Bill West  
US Army  
Secretary/  
Treasurer

Jim Brennan  
US Army  
Vietnam Era  
Veteran  
Legislative  
Director

John A Miterko  
Captain USAR  
Vietnam  
Resource/  
Research Director

**Board Members:**

John Boerstler  
Sergeant USMC  
Iraq Veteran

George Harley  
COL USA (retired)

Robert Pechukos  
Staff Sergeant  
USMC  
Iraq Veteran

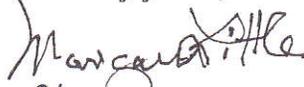
At the annual meeting in February, The Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations (TCVO) voted to support mesothelioma claims transparency legislation currently being considered before the Texas legislature. As Chairman of TCVO, an organization representing more than 35 veterans' groups representing approximately 600,000 veterans throughout Texas, I write to support similar federal legislation being debated in Washington, Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act, H.R. 526.

This legislation will protect veterans by curbing fraud and preserving bankruptcy trust resources for future claims. Military veterans are particularly hard hit by asbestos-related diseases and preserving the trusts is vital to the veteran community. Nearly two-dozen trusts have reduced net payouts to claimants since 2009, which impacts veterans who develop asbestos-related injuries both today and in the future.

For example, there are at least ten trusts that compensate claimants who were exposed to asbestos in naval shipyards. These trusts are collectively paying claimants 50 percent less today than they paid six years ago. Enacting trust transparency legislation in Texas and at the federal level will discourage "double-dipping," and help preserve financial resources for military veterans.

We commend your efforts to preserve asbestos trust funds for veterans impacted by asbestos related diseases.

Sincerely yours,

  
Chairman