



August 23, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Department of Health and Human Services' statement on the explanation of effectiveness of the asbestos worker license is outlined below.

The worker license type is unique as they are the individuals qualified to physically remove the asbestos-containing material. This involves many different removal techniques that are covered in the specific asbestos worker curriculum established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For example, workers would construct a containment that they would put under negative pressure for a gross removal project. Another project could involve the use of glovebags, etc.

Unregulated asbestos removal would expose the public to a known carcinogen. If an asbestos worker were no longer regulated, demolition and renovation projects would be conducted by general laborers who have no knowledge of safe removal practices, exposing all occupants to a known carcinogen.

These regulations have been approved by the EPA. These regulations have been effective to ensure people, especially children, have not been exposed to a known carcinogen that would have led to health issues in the prime of their life. The regulation of the asbestos industry has resulted in a reduction of asbestos-related health issues and deaths.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Menefee".

Charity Menefee  
Director, Division of Public Health