

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

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 inspector licenses is outlined below.

The asbestos inspector license type is unique as they are the individuals qualified to determine the presence of asbestos. The requirement of a licensed inspector has prevented exposure from demolition and renovation projects.

The identification by an asbestos inspector of whether suspect material is present or not determines whether an asbestos project would be required. If asbestos inspectors were no longer regulated, demolition and renovation projects would proceed without any identification of asbestos, exposing all occupants to a known carcinogen.

These regulations have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (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