

NEBRASKA

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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

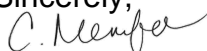
Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Department of Health and Human Services' statement on the explanation of effectiveness of the limited project designer license is outlined below.

The limited project designer license type is unique as they are the individuals qualified to design an asbestos project. This license type could be combined with the project designer except that the limited individuals do not take a physical to allow them to wear a negative pressure respirator which prohibits them from being onsite.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires the use of a project designer when a major fiber release episode occurs. If we no longer had this license type, schools would not be in compliance with federal law (EPA 763.80 subpart E). If a limited project designer were no longer regulated, a project designer would be required to be onsite for demolition and renovation projects. If the industry was no longer regulated, all occupants would be exposed to a known carcinogen during the project. If a fiber release episode were to occur in a school, the school would have no one to make recommendations to safely remedy the situation.

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,


Charity Menefee
Director, Division of Public Health