

Hatch Asbestos Bill Faulty

The Ledger | Published Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Many people are asbestos victims. Sen. Orrin Hatch [R-Utah] is trying to pass a bill now that is trying to stop funds for the people who have asbestos. This is what's wrong with the Hatch asbestos bailout bill.

Seventy-five percent of all asbestos victims would receive nothing. If you're not on oxygen and do not have a tumor, you would not be compensated under this legislation. Ninety-five percent of asbestosis and pleural-thickening victims would receive nothing.

All pending cases, settlements, verdicts on appeal, and bankruptcy awards would be wiped out. A strict formula for those who do "qualify" will limit compensation for many to as little as 5 percent to 10 percent of what would be received in the courts. Five years? Ten years? Yes, it would take that long for compensation to be paid to the few who qualify. A massive backlog of cases would guarantee many years of delay.

People who have asbestosis need to be compensated for their health, lung cancer and mesothelioma. I'm also one of the people who has this disease.

RODGER HENDERSON

Winter Haven