

**BRIEFING ON H.R. 982, FACT ACT and H.R. 2655, LARA
ANTI-VICTIMS BILLS SCHEDULED FOR FLOOR DEBATE NEXT
WEEK**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 2:00 p.m.
2237 Rayburn House Office Building**

Dear Democratic Colleague:

We write to encourage you and your staff to attend an important briefing on **Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. in 2237 Rayburn House Office Building**. Victims advocates and representatives from consumer groups will discuss the two anti-victim bills scheduled for floor consideration next week. Participants will explain how both H.R. 982 and H.R. 2655 will make it harder for victims to obtain justice through the judicial system. They will also be available to answer any additional questions.

H.R. 982, the "Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2013," mandates the public disclosure of personal information of asbestos exposure victims who seek compensation from bankruptcy trusts. This measure will only benefit the very companies that caused these injuries, while burdening the trusts that were created to help compensate victims. As the widow of our former colleague Representative Bruce Vento (D-MN), who died from asbestos exposure, stated, H.R. 982 "does not do a single thing" to help asbestos victims and their families. The bill is strongly opposed by asbestos victims as well as labor and consumer organizations, including the AFL-CIO, Public Citizen, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, and the Environmental Working Group.

H.R. 2655, the "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2013," revives a procedural rule that encouraged thousands of frivolous claims, and unfairly targeted victims of civil rights violations, employment discrimination, and voting rights abuses, among others, from obtaining justice from the federal courts. The legislation would restrict judicial discretion and impose long-discredited procedural requirements rejected by the Judicial Conference of the United States and the American Bar Association. This legislation is opposed by a broad coalition of organizations, including the Center for Justice and Democracy, the Consumer Federation of America, Earthjustice, the National Association of Consumer Advocates, the National Consumer Law Center, the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, the National Consumers League, the National Employment Lawyers Association, the National Women's Health Network, Public Citizen, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

This timely briefing will provide a valuable opportunity for you and your staff to obtain useful information as we prepare for the floor debate on these two measures. For more information, please visit the House Judiciary Committee Democrats website at <http://democrats.judiciary.house.gov/> or direct any questions to the Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff at 5-6906.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary

Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice

Steve Cohen

Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law