

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Bob Hackett, Chair
Senate Insurance Committee
1 Capitol Square Room 132
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: NAMIC Support for Senate Bill 63

Chairman Hackett and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies¹ (NAMIC), thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement in support of Senate Bill 63.

NAMIC is a national property and casualty insurance trade association comprised of more than 1,500 member companies, including seven of the top 10 property/casualty insurers in the United States. The association supports local and regional mutual insurance companies on main streets across America as well as many of the country's largest national insurers.

Senate Bill 63 is a straightforward piece of legislation that will improve Ohio civil justice laws by limiting the over-naming of defendants in asbestos lawsuits. Current law allows asbestos complaints to be filed against companies that have no connection or liability to the plaintiff's injuries. This practice is very burdensome and costly for companies to resolve each claim against each defendant, who have no relation to the asbestos exposure. Additionally, over-naming applies unnecessary strain on the judicial process. Senate Bill 63 will address the over-naming abuse in Ohio by requiring plaintiffs to file a sworn statement specifying the evidence that provides the basis for each claim.

Senate Bill 63 strengthens Ohio's civil justice system and promotes judicial productivity by preventing unmeritorious lawsuits. For these reasons, NAMIC supports Senate Bill 63 and urges passage.

Sincerely,

Matt Overturf
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National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
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¹ NAMIC member companies write \$357 billion in annual premiums and represent 69 percent of homeowners, 56 percent of automobile, and 31 percent of the business insurance markets. Through its advocacy programs NAMIC promotes public policy solutions that benefit member companies and the policyholders they serve and fosters greater understanding and recognition of the unique alignment of interests between management and policyholders of mutual companies.