

T E S T I M O N Y
TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE
HOUSE JUDICIARY AND LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE
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BY
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I like many others have spent a lifetime working so that one day I could savor the rewards of my labors and enjoy life. Retirement... the time when the worries and struggles of everyday life would lessen and I would be treated with the honor and respect deserving of all elders of this nation.

Unfortunately for the senior members of Pennsylvania this is not the case. I appear here today to express my concerns about House Bill 916--the product liability measure. This legislation would not help the senior citizens nor the consumers of this Commonwealth, it would hurt them. It is yet another attempt for the manufacturers of unsafe products to get off "scot free" while Pennsylvania's citizens take a risk every time they open a bottle, unwrap a box, or tear off a lid.

For instance, who in this Commonwealth uses more prescription drugs than the senior citizens? Many need to be on certain medications for more than fifteen years, and if the proposed statute of limitations were enacted, what legal recourse would one have if one of these drugs was found to be unsafe?

The majority of senior citizens live on fixed incomes with medication taking up a large portion of our monthly income. With the continued spiraling of health care costs, we need the protection that our present civil justice system grants us. We need a simple assurance that the drugs and products we buy are as safe as they can be.

By letting manufacturers off the hook you are unfairly and unjustly shifting the cost onto victims, employers and taxpayers.

If you allow House Bill 916 to pass, you are not only turning your backs on the approximately two million senior citizens in this state, but you are placing a pricetag on the health and safety of every man, woman and child who resides in this once great state.