



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 517

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to enact the Sunshine In Litigation Act, A-07017 and S-2995-A, an act that would prohibit settlement agreements that conceal a public hazard or any information that would conceal a public hazard.

By Council Members Lopez, Fidler, Gerson, Sanders, Foster and Jackson

Whereas, Secrecy agreements that conceal public hazards undermine the civil justice system, endanger New Yorkers, and have a corrosive effect on public confidence in the courts; and

Whereas, Defendants in civil suits, particularly product liability suits, often demand, as a condition for any settlement, that information discovered in the course of the suit not be released to the public; and

Whereas, The recent controversy surrounding Firestone tires underscores the need to protect against such secrecy agreements; and

Whereas, Although victims of accidents involving Firestone tires initiated suit against the company in 1992, the tires were not recalled until 2000; and

Whereas, During the interim, dozens of lawsuits were settled out of court in which Firestone demanded and obtained secrecy orders; and

Whereas, These secrecy orders prevented essential information on public safety from being released and led to unnecessary injuries and death; and

Whereas, Other secrecy agreements have resulted from suits regarding asbestos, silicone breast implants, and synthetic estrogen; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to enact

the Sunshine In Litigation Act, A-07017 and S-2995-A, an act that would prohibit settlement agreements that conceal a public hazard or any information that would conceal a public hazard.

LS# 1135
RBU
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