

## To all members of the German Bundestag (German Parliament)

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen of the German Bundestag, who are also represented in the Labour and Social Affairs and Health Committees, and tomorrow will be discussing in the First Reading a reform of the Social Code VII (Law Occupational Diseases) proposed by the BMAS.

The proposed reforms are, according to experts, of a decidedly minimalist nature, apart from the expansion of the institution "Medical Advisory Council for Occupational Diseases" at the BMAS.

I don't know if you know that every year about 50,000 people get stuck in this (supposedly social) net because they do not receive any recognition for the problems they have at work (e.g. occupational disability). As a communication scientist, I have been dealing with this problem for a little more than two years, and I regularly hear this one sentence from affected people: I have lost faith in the Law.

If you add the disappointment of family members, the number of frustrated people increases to 100,000—every year. Within one legislative period, that amounts to (at least) 400,000 people. If you should be concerned about the meanwhile considerable share of the so-called right margin, I can only recommend asking them as well.

It is utterly incomprehensible to me as a scientist how one can negate the problems of professionally injured persons, which have been persisting for years in such a way and leave them hanging in this "Social and Constitutional State"; I launched a corresponding research project in 2019: "Risk perception and perception processes", in which I investigate the question, e.g., why asbestos took about 90 years to be banned, why it was quicker for PCP/dioxin taking 40 years, and why the current problems of the statutory accident insurance system are regularly played down and/or not noticed.

If you are interested a) in these questions and b) in the people affected, I recommend that you take a look at [www.ansTageslicht.de/Berufskrankheitzu](http://www.ansTageslicht.de/Berufskrankheitzu) or view the attached 5 case studies of affected people and two occupational physicians, briefly summarised on 1 page each.

Another case can only be presented in a strongly compressed form on two pages because the development engineer who in the meantime is disabled and unable to work had/ has 11 (in words: eleven) legal proceedings running before the Social Court Dortmund and the LSG North-Rhine/Westphalia.

What a serious reform in the current system would have to (should) tackle is - after many discussions with experts not involved in the system of the statutory accident insurance - is summarized here [www.ansTageslicht.de/Reform](http://www.ansTageslicht.de/Reform) .

A brief description of the research project at the Competence Center Communication (CCCOM) of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW) can be found at [www.haw-cc.com/Risikowahrnehmung](http://www.haw-cc.com/Risikowahrnehmung) .

For inquiries, please see the above coordinates or call 0176 -52 00 69 15.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Johannes Ludwig , 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
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