

October 26, 2021

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2141 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2141 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan:

We are writing on behalf of ourselves or family members who have suffered the pain of mesothelioma caused by the use of Johnson & Johnson's baby powder, which has been found to contain a known carcinogen, asbestos, and was withdrawn from the U.S. market in May 2020. We strongly encourage you to support H.R. 4777, the "Nondebtor Release Prohibition Act of 2021." Johnson & Johnson abused our trust when it sold a product they knew contained asbestos, and today, they are failing to take responsibility for their actions by filing for bankruptcy despite being a tremendously profitable multi-billion dollar global corporation. H.R. 4777 would ensure that Johnson & Johnson cannot avoid accountability and willfully abuse the bankruptcy system against people who now have cancer due to their misconduct.

Evidence shows that Johnson & Johnson's baby powder tested positive for the presence of asbestos, a known carcinogen, and that they have known about the presence of asbestos in their products for decades and failed to inform consumers and regulators. For example, an investigation conducted by Reuters found that, "J&J didn't tell the FDA that at least three tests by three different labs from 1972 to 1975 had found asbestos in its talc – in one case at levels reported as 'rather high.'" Because illnesses from asbestos exposure typically take decades to appear, tens of thousands of people are suffering from mesothelioma because of this toxic baby powder.

Mesothelioma is a horrific disease. When you learn that you or your loved one has been diagnosed with mesothelioma, you are not only filled with fear, but also with anger. This is compounded by the fact that our cancer was caused by use of baby powder – a product we all considered so innocent that we used it regularly for years, and even on our children. We wonder what could have been if only J&J had put safety over profits and disclosed what they knew internally about the dangers of this product.

Bankruptcy is an important tool for individuals and companies that fall on hard times and need a fresh start. J&J does not fall into that category. It is using tricks and loopholes to distort the bankruptcy system solely to eliminate the legal rights of cancer victims – yet

another indignity for our families that have been ravaged by J&J's greed and selfishness. We ask that you support H.R. 4777 to stop this injustice and prevent companies like J&J from leaving victims with scraps in a bankruptcy system never designed to protect profitable corporations that simply refuse to accept accountability.

Sincerely,

Jamie Arvelo	New Jersey
Deborah Salem	Michigan
Marc Zimmerman	Michigan
Barbara Salem	Michigan
David C Kohrman	Michigan
Sarah Zimmerman	Michigan
Michael Zimmerman	Florida
John J. Cole	New Jersey
Alan Marks	Georgia
Ann Greenberg	Massachusetts
James Luisi	Massachusetts
Jason Cartwright	Pennsylvania
Elif Doganalp	California
John Iacuzzo	New Jersey
Cindee Weiss	New York
Andrea Cardenas	Florida
Mary Iacuzzo	New Jersey
Brian Kryzanski	Florida
Carole Pelissey	Massachusetts
Kathy Sartorius	New Jersey
Jane Ellis	Massachusetts
Shawn Hayes	Virginia
Lisa Britt	North Carolina
Adam Greenberg	Massachusetts
Donna and Robert Olson	Delaware
Selim Doganalp	New Jersey
Bill Korbholz	California
Katherine Tollefson	Minnesota

Nolan Zimmerman	Washington
William Brennan	New York
Kurt Ludwig	California
Linda Cates	California
Isil Schwartz	New York
Aysem Kilinc	California
Cem Burus	Florida
Idil Mumkaya	New York
Charles Iacuzzo	California
Kathy Korbholz	California
Seth Holm	New Jersey
Volkan Oktem	California
Amy Fisch	New York
Cigdem Mete	New Jersey
Lauren Holm	New Jersey
June Lipton	Massachusetts
Cory Boller	California
Darin Ring	Washington
Brian Ring	California
Mae Tiram	New Jersey
Fatou Diop	Florida
Heather Hatter	Virginia
Louis Wagner	New Mexico
Dominica LaBarr-Mabry	New York
Caglar Unlu	California
Roger Dale Tinley Jr.	South Carolina
Bryan J. Hassemer	California
John Stepanek	Florida
Judith K. O'Connor	Florida