

undergone six rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, and major surgeries. Two days into her 2019 trial, Johnson & Johnson struck a deal to pay her damages.

These women, all Californians, are just a few of the now over 40,000 women who want Johnson & Johnson to help cover the millions of dollars in medical expenses they have racked up in their fight against cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

Before we knew asbestos caused cancer, men who inhaled asbestos dust in mines and in industries like shipbuilding got mesothelioma cancer. For decades, women who didn't work in those jobs, but were diagnosed with mesothelioma, wondered how they could have been exposed.

Like asbestos, talc is a naturally occurring mineral that must be mined. During that process, talc can be contaminated by asbestos.

The 40,000 women all diagnosed with asbestos-related cancers all used Johnson & Johnson baby powder for decades on their children and on themselves. The main ingredient? Talc.

Johnson & Johnson sold its iconic baby powder for 60 years, despite their own internal documents showing that their executives, scientists, doctors, and lawyers all knew that some bottles were laced with asbestos.

In 1976, Johnson & Johnson assured the FDA that no asbestos was "detected in any sample" of talc produced between December 1972 and October 1973. What it didn't say, what it didn't tell the regulator, was that at least three tests by three different labs found asbestos in the powder, in one case at levels reported as "rather high."

Internal documents confirm that Johnson & Johnson willfully misled consumers about the safety of its baby powder.

In a memo to managers, a Johnson & Johnson executive explained that the company's policy of countering negative research about the dangers of talc: "Our current posture with respect to sponsorship of talc safety studies has been to initiate studies only as dictated by confrontation." "The principal advantage for this operating philosophy lies in the fact that we minimize the risk of possible self-generation of scientific data which may be politically or scientifically embarrassing."

In this 2013 markup of a statement for Johnson & Johnson's website, you can see that Johnson & Johnson's legal team advised the company against claiming that: "Our talc-based consumer products have always been asbestos free," with the comment: "We cannot say 'always.'" They recognized that the company's talc could have been contaminated in earlier times.

Johnson & Johnson built its fortune on its baby powder. The company's net worth is \$440 billion, plenty of assets to help the women poisoned by their products.

Three weeks ago, Johnson & Johnson formed a subsidiary called LTL Management. They then dumped all of their asbestos-related liabilities, including those nearly 40,000 lawsuits, into that shell company. Two days later, LTL Management filed for bankruptcy.

This is corporate chicanery, corporate abuse, because Johnson & Johnson only provided that shell company with \$2 billion to cover tens of thousands of asbestos-related lawsuits. Two billion dollars is a big number, but Johnson & Johnson knows the real damages they caused. In 2018, the company was ordered to pay \$4.69 billion to 22 women and their families who used baby powder. They know they did not put enough money into that entity, and they specifically created it to avoid liability.

Corporations abusing our bankruptcy system is not new. Before I came to Congress, I did extensive research on these kinds of predatory, anti-consumer tactics.

Johnson & Johnson is abusing our legal system to shield its assets. This is an injustice and Congress must act.

#### NLRB CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, what is happening at the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, is so rotten it stinks.

Under Democrat leadership, the NLRB has a history of bias and overreach. President Biden fired the Senate-confirmed general counsel on his first day in office, and now the Biden board is dodging ethics rules.

NLRB Democrats are refusing to follow conflict of interest standards that were weaponized by Democrats during the Trump administration. This is blatant hypocrisy and threatens the integrity of the board.

How can NLRB members Gwynne Wilcox and David Prouty be conscientious arbiters on the very policies they fought against as union employees? And how can we expect board members with close ties to union activists to be unbiased when it comes to big labor cases?

Is there anything NLRB Democrats won't do to advance the interests of big labor at the expense of American workers? It is a shame what it is doing.

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#### MERITS OF TEXAS' HEARTBEAT BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, soon the Supreme Court will rule on the challenge to the Texas abortion law case. The law implements the Nation's toughest restrictions on abortions.

Signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott in May, it prohibits abortion after a heartbeat is detected in the unborn child. This usually occurs around 6 weeks. The law makes exceptions for medical emergencies.

The U.S. Supreme Court is hearing challenges to this bill by pro-abortion groups that want the law overturned. The upcoming ruling will be closely watched as an indicator as to whether the Federal courts will uphold future States' rights to implement pro-life legislation rather than continuing to overreach their Federal court authority.

Unborn babies are human lives. All too often, abortion is referred to as simply a medical procedure, and the sanctity of life is devalued.

At 6 weeks, an unborn child has a heartbeat of approximately 98 beats per minute. Blood vessels begin to form in the circulatory system, and the brain is rapidly developing. This is a human life.

By 10 weeks, an unborn baby has arms and legs, fingers and toes. The baby's pain receptors have been developing for weeks. This is a human life.

By 15 weeks, all the unborn baby's major organs have formed, and the baby has a fully developed heart that pumps 26 quarts of blood per day. The baby can feel pain.

All too often, these facts are overlooked and sidelined and not even addressed in the issue of abortion.

It is my hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will see the merits as to why the State of Texas heartbeat bill was implemented. According to CDC statistics, 619,591 babies were aborted in the United States in 2018. That is 619,591 lives that could have been the next teacher, firefighter, parent, or President of the United States. Upholding the heartbeat bill would save the lives of countless unborn babies, both male and female.

Here in Congress, I continue to be the protector of life and champion for the Hyde amendment in Federal legislation. Taxpayer money should not be used to end the lives of innocent, defenseless babies with beating hearts.

The right to life is our most fundamental, natural, and God-given right. I will continue to fight to oppose pro-abortion plans to force taxpayer funding for abortion. Your taxpayer dollars should never be used to be funding abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in the sanctity of life, and I will continue to fight for the rights of preborn babies.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.