

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-6074
<http://oversight.house.gov>

Opening Statement
Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy
Hearing on “Examining Carcinogens in Talc and the Best Methods for Asbestos Detection”
December 10, 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today’s critical hearing, and thank you for your Subcommittee’s dedication to protecting public health.

In October, FDA announced that it detected asbestos in Johnson & Johnson’s baby powder, leading the company to recall more than 30,000 bottles.

Since then, Johnson & Johnson has publicly questioned the integrity of FDA’s findings, casting doubt on the accuracy of the testing that was conducted.

The American people need to have faith that the products they use are safe, and that is part of FDA’s critical role. If Johnson & Johnson claims there is some problem with FDA’s methods or procedures, they need to explain those allegations in detail and provide the basis for their allegations.

Unfortunately, as the Chairman explained, the CEO of Johnson & Johnson, Alex Gorsky, has declined the Subcommittee’s invitation to testify here today. Mr. Gorsky has spoken to the press, issued public statements, and testified in litigation, but he apparently does not want to defend his company’s actions here today.

That is unfortunate and, frankly, unhelpful. I hope and encourage the Subcommittee to continue its important work on behalf of the American people, and I pledge my support as they do so. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

###