

**From:** Widmer, Kathleen [MCCUS] \_\_\_\_\_  
**To:** [janette@bwwla.com](mailto:janette@bwwla.com) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2020, 7:43:19 AM PDT  
**Subject:** Black Women for Wellness

July 10, 2020

Janette Robinson Flint

Executive Director

Black Women for Wellness

4340 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90008

Dear Ms. Flint,

On behalf of Johnson & Johnson, I want to thank you for your letter. The work your organization is championing is critically important to the health of communities across the country. Our Company believes good health is the foundation of vibrant lives, thriving communities and forward progress. That's why for more than 130 years, we have aimed to keep people well at every age and every stage of life.

As a company committed to changing the trajectory of health for humanity, we take any concern about the safety of our products, including cosmetic talc, seriously. Consumer trust in Johnson's Baby Products and the confidence in using them every day is a huge responsibility – that's why we only use ingredients that are deemed safe to use by the latest science. We do, however, understand the talc litigation has caused confusion and concern about the safety of our product, and we remain committed to ensuring the facts are understood.

Decades of independent scientific studies by medical experts around the world support the safety of Johnson's Baby Powder. In fact, the most recent [cohort study](#), published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, pooled a number of high-level epidemiological studies and found no statistically significant increased risk of ovarian cancer with talc use. Further, not a single professional organization or regulator has concluded that there is scientific evidence supporting claims of causation between talc and ovarian cancer.

The decision to discontinue talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder in the United States and Canada has nothing to do with the safety of the product. Johnson's Baby Powder is safe, asbestos free, and does not cause cancer. However, demand for talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder in North America has been declining due in large part to changes in consumer habits and fueled by misinformation around the safety of the product and a constant barrage of litigation advertising. [You can read more about this decision here.](#)

I also want to address sources cited in your letter and ensure you have our Company's perspective. In your letter, you refer to an article by *Reuters* in support of your claim that talc is unsafe. Johnson & Johnson vehemently disagrees with that article and its conclusion, and we invite you to read our [response to that article](#) made publicly available on our website.

Additionally, regarding the recent decision in the Missouri appellate court (*Ingham*), we continue to believe this was a fundamentally flawed trial and are pursuing further review of this case by the Supreme Court of Missouri. It is important to note that many of the verdicts against Johnson & Johnson that have been through the appellate process have been overturned. There have also been several trials where juries have concluded that Johnson & Johnson's product was not responsible for the plaintiffs' cancer, and in other instances, judges have dismissed cases outright, based on their own review of the facts. We will continue to vigorously defend the product, its safety, and the unfounded allegations against it and the Company in the courtroom.

Research, clinical evidence and over 40 years of studies by medical experts around the world continue to support the safety of cosmetic talc. We stand behind Johnson's Baby Powder and continue to offer this product in many other regions around the world where there is higher consumer demand.

More information about the discontinuation of talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder and the safety of the product is available at [www.FactsAboutTalc.com](http://www.FactsAboutTalc.com).

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Widmer

Company Group Chairman, North America and Latin America

Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health