



Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 849



---

**INTRODUCED BY REP. TEODORICO “NONONG” T. HARESCO, JR.**

---

**A RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE**  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF**  
**LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CARCINOGENIC ASBESTOS FOUND IN**  
**JOHNSON & JOHNSON BABY POWDER AND OTHER PRODUCTS**  
**CONTAINING ASBESTOS WHICH IS DETRIMENTAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2018, an investigative report exposed that there was asbestos contamination in Johnson and Johnson (J&J) talc products from 1971 to the early 2000s, with tests from different labs, reports, and company memos proving this claim. The aforesaid findings were not disclosed by J&J to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, asbestos is the generic commercial designation for a group of naturally occurring mineral silicate fibers that have been used in a wide variety of products and various uses over the years. It is known for its heat-resistant properties and durability, which made it a popular material in various industries such as construction, automotive, and shipbuilding;

**WHEREAS**, recent studies, however, show that prolonged exposure to asbestos fibers can lead to severe respiratory illnesses such as asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. These diseases are often fatal and have a long latency period, meaning that symptoms may only manifest after several years of exposure;

**WHEREAS**, the International Agency for Research on Cancer even considers asbestos a known human carcinogen;

**WHEREAS**, the risks associated with exposure to asbestos have been well-documented, and various international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), have recommended that the use of asbestos be banned;

**WHEREAS**, worldwide, several countries have already prohibited and/or regulated the manufacture, export, and import of asbestos and asbestos containing materials, particularly, friable asbestos materials and low density products;

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/johnsonandjohnson-cancer/>

**WHEREAS**, with such health risks posed by asbestos and asbestos-containing products, at least 69 countries have instituted a National Asbestos Ban policy<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in the Philippines, the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing products has remained widespread in various industries, including construction, automotive, and manufacturing. According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), there are still several asbestos-containing materials in use in the country, including roofing sheets, cement pipes, and brake pads;

**WHEREAS**, in 2000, the DENR issued Administrative Order No. 2000-02, a Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Asbestos meant to control and regulate the use and disposal of asbestos into the environment to avoid the aforementioned adverse consequences;

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued FDA Advisory 2019-394 in response to the safety alert warning by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for consumers not to use certain cosmetic products that tested positive for asbestos which included Johnson's Baby Powder;

**WHEREAS**, according to the said advisory, the Philippine FDA was informed by Johnson and Johnson Consumer Inc. (JJCI), that the products in question were distributed only in the United States, yet, among the few public health interventions of the FDA was to advise the general public to use cosmetic products cautiously and required a warning in the product label – *“keep powder away from children's nose and mouth”*;

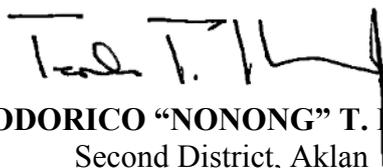
**WHEREAS**, as early as 2019, Sri Lanka has already banned the importation of Johnson's Baby Powder until the company proves its product is free from asbestos<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, with thousands of lawsuits against JJCI, they have announced that it would end the worldwide sale of talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder in 2023. The company had already discontinued the sale of the talc-based version of its baby powder in the U.S. and Canada in 2020<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the government to protect the health and welfare of the public, particularly people who are heavily vulnerable to asbestos and asbestos-containing products, and to put an end to the proliferation of such dangerous products in the market;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***, to direct the Committee on Trade and Industry and the Committee on Health to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported carcinogenic asbestos found in Johnson & Johnson Baby Powder and other products containing asbestos which is detrimental to public health.

*Adopted,*



**REP. TEODORICO “NONONG” T. HARESCO, JR.**  
Second District, Aklan

<sup>2</sup> [http://ibasecretariat.org/alpha\\_ban\\_list.php](http://ibasecretariat.org/alpha_ban_list.php)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6651909/Sri-Lanka-halts-imports-Johnson-Johnson-Baby-Powder-pending-asbestos-tests.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.asbestos.com/news/2022/08/15/johnson-johnson-talc-worldwide-sales/>