Johnson & Johnson Shareholder Meeting Question
Scott Shepard, Free Enterprise Project Coordinator
National Center for Public Policy Research, April 23, 2020

I'm Scott Shepard with the National Center for Public Policy Research.

As Johnson & Johnson revealed in December, FDA testing errors resulted in the company fearing that its baby powder had been contaminated with asbestos – an extremely serious charge, and error.[1] More recently, the FDA's long and cumbersome regulatory process has proven a hindrance to speedy production of protective and medical equipment, and to the development of tests, treatments and cures for COVID-19, which has resulted in some waivers and exceptions to normal processes.[2] Given these experiences, will Johnson & Johnson call for review and streamlining of the FDA approval and regulatory processes, and for a halt to deeper intrusions of government bureaucracy into the U.S. healthcare system?

Contact: Judy Kent at (703) 759-0269 or cell (703) 477-7476 or JKent@nationalcenter.org
and David W. Almasi at (703) 568-4727 or DAlmasi@nationalcenter.org
National Center for Public Policy Research
20 F Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001
www.nationalcenter.org • @NationalCenter • @FreeEntProject

[1] *See, e.g.,* Noah Manskar, *Johnson & Johnson Blames FDA for Baby Powder Asbestos Scare,* NEW YORK POST (Dec. 4, 2019), *available at* https://nypost.com/2019/12/04/johnson-johnson-blames-fda-for-baby-powder-asbestos-scare/ (last accessed April 15, 2020).

[2] *See, e.g.,* Lisa Winter, *First Saliva Test for COVID-19 Approved for Emergency Use by FDA,* THE SCIENTIST (April 14, 2020), *available at* https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/first-saliva-test-for-covid-19-approved-for-emergency-use-by-fda-67416/ (last accessed Aprili 15, 2020); Madlin Mekelburg, *Did FDA Regulations Slow Testing for the Coronavirus? Fact-Checking Rep. Dan Crenshaw's Claim,* SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS (April 13, 2020), *available at https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/Did-FDA-regulations-slow-testing-for-the-15190265.php* (last accessed April 15, 2020); Robin Patel & Stefano Bertuzzi, *Expediting COVID-19 Testing and Expanding Access to Clinical Labs,* AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY (March 9, 2020), *available* at https://asm.org/Articles/2020/January/Expediting-COVID-19-Testing-and-Expanding-Access-t (last accessed April 15, 2020).