



**JOSH STEIN**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 12, 2024

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Health and Human Services  
Members of the House Committee on Appropriations, Health and Human Services

From: Attorney General Josh Stein, North Carolina Department of Justice

**Re: North Carolina Johnson & Johnson Talc Powder Settlement**

I am pleased to share with you a recent win my office had for North Carolina: Johnson & Johnson will pay \$700 million to settle allegations of deceptive marketing around the company's talc powder. North Carolina will receive \$27 million as a result of this agreement. I am writing you to urge the General Assembly to appropriate these funds to protect women's health in our state.

Medical research has linked talc powder use to ovarian cancer. In North Carolina, ovarian cancer is the eighth-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women, with a survival rate of only 50.9%. According to the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS), late-stage diagnosis is prevalent for ovarian cancer, with less than 25 percent diagnosed at an early stage. Further, research has shown that there are racial disparities in access to appropriate treatment, as well as increased mortality rates among women of color.

Understanding our shared priority of protecting health in North Carolina, and considering this data, I ask that this money be directed to fund an Ovarian Cancer Strategic Response Initiative within NCDHHS. This initiative would include public-private partnerships, strengthening data collection and analysis, and a statewide communication and awareness campaign. The proposed initiatives would reach rural and underserved communities and tackle challenges to accessibility and stigma head-on. Investment in the Ovarian Cancer Strategic Response Initiative is vital to improving screening, surveillance, early diagnoses, and prevention of ovarian cancer.

As public servants, we are all committed to the health, safety, and well-being of North Carolinians. Directing these funds to this important initiative will allow us to work together to strengthen and protect the women of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Josh Stein  
Attorney General of North Carolina

cc: Jasmine S. McGhee, Senior Deputy Attorney General/Consumer Protection Director, North Carolina Department of Justice  
Kody Kinsley, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Debra C. Farrington, Deputy Secretary/Chief Health Equity Officer, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services