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Coalition Calls on J&J Board to Reject Forced Arbitration Proposal on Upcoming Earnings Call

*As J&J faces allegations it hid risks of asbestos in baby powder, pending proposal
would allow company to eliminate investors' legal rights*

Washington, DC — The *Wall Street Journal* reported last month that a J&J shareholder filed a proposal with the company that would strip investors of the right to file claims in court, and instead funnel all shareholder claims into individual, private arbitration. J&J may have to decide, absent a decision from the currently shut-down SEC, whether or not to include it on their April shareholder ballot.

On Tuesday's earnings call Johnson & Johnson (J&J) should announce their opposition to a proposal before the company to require forced shareholder arbitration. If the proposal must be added to their shareholder ballot for a vote in April, J&J should recommend a vote against the proposal. The company has an opportunity to alleviate these concerns when they report on fourth-quarter results to investors on a [conference call](#) on **Tuesday, January 22nd at 8:30 a.m. EST.**

The maneuver was slammed by the [Secure Our Savings](#) (SOS) coalition, a group comprised of more than 40 national and state-based organizations that has been calling on the SEC to safeguard Americans' rights to join together to hold law-breaking corporations accountable in a court of law.

“This proposal would eliminate the right to seek justice and accountability for small investors,” said Barbara Roper, Director of Protection for Consumer Federation of America, a leading member of the SOS coalition. “Our hope is J&J will address this on their call Tuesday and take a stand for their shareholders by rejecting the forced shareholder arbitration proposal.”

J&J's stock dropped precipitously in December when an [investigation](#) revealed that the company knew for years that asbestos was in its products. Should the forced arbitration proposal prevail, the net result would be claim suppression and individuals forced into arbitration at a time when many Johnson and Johnson shareholders may feel they have been defrauded by the company.

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The [Secure Our Savings](#) (SOS) Coalition is comprised of more than 40 national and state-based organizations. It assembled to call on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to stand by its mission and longstanding policy of empowering and protecting American investors, including retired servicemembers, first responders, and teachers, by safeguarding their right to join together to hold law-breaking corporations publicly accountable in a court of law. To stay up to date on SOS Coalition activities, visit <https://secureoursavings.com>.