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Contact: Nell Geiser, Change to Win (212) 332-9320
Gina Bowers, Change to Win (202) 288-0257

More Than 90% of CVS Stores Surveyed in Greater Houston Selling Expired Infant Formula, Medication or Dairy Products

Warning to Consumers Issued by Community Advocates

Houston, TX. – A delegation of community advocates led a demonstration outside a local CVS pharmacy today to warn consumers about expired products found on the shelves at CVS. The community leaders were reacting to the results of a survey, released today, that found more than 90 percent of Greater Houston CVS stores surveyed had expired goods for sale, including infant formula, medication and dairy products.

Standing before a display of expired products that were recently purchased at area CVS stores, community leaders called on the nation's largest drugstore chain to show respect for the community by removing all expired products from its stores.

Expired products included: Two-week old milk purchased at a League City CVS; Year-old infant formula purchased at a Pearland CVS; Over-the-counter medicine that was two years past its 'sell by' date, recently purchased at the CVS on W. Orem Drive in Houston. Over 40 percent of CVS stores surveyed stocked expired infant formula (15 stores). More than four out of five CVS stores had expired child and/or adult medications available for sale (29 stores).

Expired products were sold by CVS stores in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery counties, at 31 of the 34 CVS stores visited. CVS operates 159 stores in Greater Houston.

Community Reaction

Cesar Espinoza, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Central American Resource Center (CRECEN) said, "We choose to stand up for what's right so that we can inform our community and bring to their attention what these so called trusted merchants are really offering and selling. Making profit at the expense of the community's health is wrong. If we let big corporations take advantage of our communities we are only investing into the pockets of the select few who do not care about the well being of our people."

Deloyd Parker, executive director of Self Help for African People through Education (SHAPE) and one of the organizers of today's demonstration said, "Our communities deserve safe, quality products from CVS. This is a continuation of the movement to get fairness and justice from businesses in our communities. CVS is clearly a retailer that is falling short."

CVS Caremark's core values talk about improving service "every day, every way

and every customer" and that's how we take action and fight--"every day, every way and for every person," Sandy Reyes told the crowd gathered outside the CVS at 917 Main Street in downtown Houston. Reyes, with the Student Veterans Organization at the University of Houston Downtown, led the delegation into the store to deliver a letter to the manager on duty. The card, signed by community leaders, read: Dear CVS, Stop disregarding the health of our children and families. Take all of the expired products out of your stores. Treat our communities with respect and clean up your act!

According to a [report](#) published last year, surveyors found expired infant formula, milk or eggs on CVS shelves in 666 stores across the country – representing more than 42 percent of the stores surveyed.

Last June, two Attorneys General – in California and New York – criticized CVS for selling expired products and demanded CVS clean these items from their shelves. In December, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo launched a lawsuit against CVS for failing to take appropriate action to keep the public safe from expired goods.

For more information visit www.CureCVSNow.org

Cure CVS is an initiative by Change to Win and partner organizations to reform the drugstore industry, starting with CVS, the country's leading provider of prescription drugs and largest drugstore chain. By joining concerned citizen groups with the six million members of Change to Win unions, Cure CVS aims to ensure that CVS provides equal access across all communities and income levels to its stores and services, offers fair and accurate prices, provides quality products and services, protects customers' privacy and puts quality pharmacy care first.

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