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CVS Selling Expired Products, Violating Health Codes in Baltimore

Warning to Consumers Issued by Community Leaders

Baltimore, Maryland – A new study released today shows 57% of local CVS drugstores surveyed are selling expired products, among other issues. In reaction to the news, a delegation of community leaders held a demonstration outside a local CVS pharmacy on Thursday to challenge CVS's practice of repeatedly selling products past their expiration dates and violating health codes.

Community leaders are reacting to the findings of a study--released today--that found an overwhelming presence of expired goods and health code violations at CVS stores in Metro Baltimore. Surveyors recently visited 310 CVS stores operating in 9 states and found expired infant formula, dairy and/or medication for sale at just over 58 percent, or 180 stores surveyed. Demonstrations are taking place today in all 9 of these states, including Maryland.

Community leaders stood behind a table covered in expired goods recently purchased in CVS stores in the Metro Baltimore area and issued a warning to consumers.

Expired Goods for Sale in 57% of Local CVS Stores Surveyed

In the last few weeks, surveyors found expired products at more than half of CVS stores surveyed in Metro Baltimore. Surveyors visited 30 of the 48 local CVS stores. These expired goods included over-the-counter medicines, infant formula, and milk products.

Forty percent of CVS stores surveyed sold expired medication, including infant medication that was more than three years past its expiration date that was purchased at the CVS store at 9610 Harford Road in Baltimore.

More than one third of CVS stores surveyed sold expired infant formula, including a container of Enfamil A. R. Lipil infant formula that was one year past its expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 6828 Reisterstown Road in Baltimore.

"CVS needs to clean up its act immediately and stop putting the health of our communities at risk. CVS's record of selling expired goods is disgraceful. You'd think CVS would figure out a way to get it right by now if it really cared, but maybe it thinks it's good business sense to sell us bad goods. I think CVS is dead wrong," said Shaun Martinez of United Students Against Sweatshops.

CVS "Goods Gone Bad"

The website www.CureCVSNow.org asks customers who observe expired products for sale in CVS stores to upload a photo and submit their story to the online gallery of “CVS Goods Gone Bad” where they can also sign a petition urging CVS to clean up its act.

CVS Fails Baltimore City Health Department Inspections

Baltimore City Health Department inspectors found evidence of mice infestations in one of every four inspections, and identified improperly stored food or expired products in a majority of inspection reports. CVS was cited for dirty milk coolers or for broken refrigerators one-third of the time.

Baltimore CVS Troubles Reflect National Pattern

The CVS protest in Baltimore today comes as community leaders also demonstrated outside CVS stores in Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; Indianapolis, Indiana; Newark, New Jersey; Bridgeport, Connecticut and near CVS’s corporate headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. Today’s actions in 9 states come on the heels of dozens of community demonstrations outside CVS stores in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Miami, and in Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Ana, California over the last few weeks and months – all over similar issues with CVS Caremark Corp.

Last June, California Attorney General Jerry Brown criticized CVS for selling expired products at dozens of stores in Southern California, saying the practice violated laws against deceptive advertising and unfair business practices. The New York State Attorney General has sued CVS to stop the company from selling expired goods. CVS’s offering expired products for sale poses “serious, even life-threatening consequences” to CVS customers, according to the Office of New York Attorney General Cuomo.

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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