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CVS Selling Expired Products in Fairfield County

Warning to Consumers Issued by Community Leaders

Bridgeport, CT – A new study released today shows 55% of local CVS drugstores surveyed in Fairfield County are selling products past their expiration date. In reaction to the news, a delegation of community and faith leaders held a demonstration outside a local CVS pharmacy today to challenge CVS's practice of repeatedly selling expired goods.

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 Connecticut.

Community leaders stood behind a table covered in expired goods recently purchased in CVS stores in Fairfield County and issued a warning to consumers.

"In the 21st century, there is no valid excuse for selling expired products. CVS has the resources necessary to make sure its products are safe and fresh, but it repeatedly puts corporate profits first. This behavior is unacceptable, and ACORN is proud to be taking a stand for our neighbors and our community," said Margaret Rhodes, an ACORN member who gets her prescriptions filled at CVS.

Expired Goods for Sale in 55% of Local CVS Stores Surveyed

In the last few weeks, surveyors found expired products at over half of CVS stores surveyed in Fairfield County. Surveyors visited 20 of the 31 CVS stores in the region, and found expired products at 11 of them. These expired goods included over-the-counter medicines, infant formula, eggs and milk products.

Fifteen percent of CVS stores surveyed sold expired infant formula, including a container of Prosobee Lipil infant formula over three months past its January 2009 expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 1875 Boston Ave in Bridgeport.

"Most disturbing about the sale of expired goods at CVS is it clearly seems to be the way they do business rather than a few isolated incidents," stated Phil Sherwood, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). CCAG is the state's oldest and largest public interest group in Connecticut and in 1972 advocated and won legislation requiring expiration dates on dairy products.

Other expired products found during the survey included a package of CVS brand Non-Drowsy Allergy Relief over five months past its expiration date of November 2008, purchased at the CVS store at 535 Monroe Turnpike in Monroe, and a pint of Garelick Farms Light Cream nearly two weeks past its April 26th sell by date, which was bought at the CVS store at 6 Willard Avenue in Norwalk.

CVS “Goods Gone Bad”

Customers who observe expired products for sale in their local CVS stores to can take action on the issue. Consumers can go to CureCVSNow.org to upload a photo and submit their story to the online gallery of “CVS Goods Gone Bad.” While there, consumers can also sign a petition urging CVS to clean up its act.

Connecticut CVS Troubles Reflect National Pattern

The CVS protest in Connecticut today comes as community leaders also demonstrated outside CVS stores in Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Indianapolis, Indiana; Newark, New Jersey; Atlanta, Georgia 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 – 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.

The following groups participated in today’s demonstration in Fairfield County: Working Families Party, ACORN, local churches.

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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