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## **CVS's Pattern of Selling Expired Goods, Violating Health Codes Persists according to New Report by CtW**

### **Customers to Create "CVS Goods Gone Bad" Gallery at [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org)**

Washington, D.C. – A new study by Change to Win reveals CVS's pattern of selling expired goods and violating health codes persists. The report, released Thursday May 21 and available at [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org), analyses the results of surveys conducted in 9 new markets including Chicago, Atlanta and Pittsburgh, among others.

Surveyors recently visited 310 CVS stores in 9 states and found expired products for sale at 180 CVS stores, more than 58 percent. The new findings include:

- More than half of the CVS stores surveyed in Metro Chicago had expired products for sale including milk that was three weeks past its sell-by date.
- 69 percent of CVS stores surveyed in Metro Atlanta had some expired products on their shelves including CVS-brand medication more than two years past its sell-by date.
- Two-thirds of the CVS stores surveyed in Greater Pittsburgh had expired products for sale including infant formula that was six months past its sell-by date.
- There were also significant problems with expired products for sale at CVS stores surveyed in Indianapolis, Indiana; Providence, Rhode Island; Bridgeport Connecticut; Newark, New Jersey and in Baltimore, Maryland where surveyors purchased medication for infants that was more than three years past its expiration date.

"When I give my child medication, I need to trust that medicine is safe and effective and expired medicines could be neither of these things. CVS needs to do its part to make sure children are protected from these potentially dangerous substances and commit to seeing all expired goods taken off its shelves," said The Reverend Luther Holland, Pastor, Congregational Church of Park Manor, who participated in the demonstration in Chicago on Thursday. "CVS's behavior here isn't just a matter of one or two bottles of expired milk. It's a matter of hundreds of products in stores across the country sitting for so long on store shelves that they may no longer be safe or effective. This is an unacceptable practice for a national retailer," Rev. Holland continued.

"CVS bills itself as a healthcare company. I wonder what the CVS definition of "health care" is, providing expired goods? Ultimately, it should not make a profit at the expense of our health and safety," said Ivette Luna, of Ocean State Action who participated in the demonstration outside a CVS store in Providence, Rhode Island.

### **CVS's Pattern of Selling Expired Products**

Change to Win released similar findings of surveys conducted at CVS stores in 10 other markets last December, one day before New York Attorney General filed suit against the company to protect New Yorkers from CVS's pattern of selling expired medicines, infant formula, milk and eggs.

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. It also violates CVS's 2003 agreement with the New York Attorney General not to sell expired nonprescription medicines.

### **Community Leaders Call on CVS to Stop Selling Expired Goods**

Rallies were held outside CVS stores today in 9 states where community leaders displayed the expired products recently purchased from CVS and warned consumers to be careful about making their purchases.

"In the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 for all intents and purposes, puts corporate profits first. This behavior is unacceptable, and Community Renewal Society is proud to be taking a stand for our neighbors and our community," said The Reverend Calvin S. Morris, Ph.D., Executive Director of Community Renewal Society, who participated in the Chicago demonstration.

### **"CVS Goods Gone Bad"**

The website [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://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.

For more information visit [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://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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