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*As CVS agrees to pay nearly \$1 million to settle expired goods allegations in Calif...*

## **Consumer Advocates Rally, call on CVS to Extend Stipulations of California Settlement Nationwide**

*Pomona, California* – On the heels of CVS's landmark settlement with the California Attorney General over its sale of expired goods, consumer advocates rallied outside a CVS pharmacy in Pomona today calling on CVS to stop selling expired products not only in California, but in all stores across the country.

CVS recently agreed to pay nearly \$1 million for selling expired products and improperly disposing of patient information in California, a victory for consumers in the state. In addition to the fine, CVS agreed to adopt new policies and retrain employees to remove expired products in its 800 stores in California.

CVS's problem of selling expired products is not limited to California, however, and consumer health advocates are calling on CVS to enforce these stipulations nationally, as the retailer has already been caught selling expired goods in numerous states.

"With CVS being the biggest drug store chain in the country, it should be an example to the entire industry," said Jose Zapata Calderon, President of the Latino and Latina Roundtable. "Instead, it has allowed expired products to be sold in CVS stores in California and throughout the country. In this time of economic distress, it is important that the mentality of holding down costs does not result in practices that threaten the quality of life of our communities. As a professor, community organizer, and consumer who has often shopped with my family at CVS, I am outraged at this drug store chain's lack of social responsibility to our communities' well-being."

Surveys of more than 2,200 CVS stores in 21 markets across the country found the company has a pattern of selling expired products. Among the expired products surveyors found were expired milk, eggs, infant formula and over-the-counter medications, including medicines meant for children. Health experts have warned against using products past their expiration date.

The California Attorney General's settlement is the latest in a series of actions taken against the company for the sale of expired goods. New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo sued the company in late 2008 for selling expired products in New York, and the Philadelphia City Council is currently reviewing legislation to clamp down on the sale of expired goods in the city. The legislation was inspired by the repeated sale of expired products at CVS stores in Philadelphia.

## **Condom Access**

CVS keeps condoms in many stores locked in cases, where customers must ask a sales associate for assistance in order to access them. Public health advocates have criticized CVS's locked condom cases, saying they could stigmatize condom users, and create a barrier which could decrease condom use.

In many cities, CVS stores with condom lockup are also more likely to be located in areas with the greatest concentrations of Latinos and people of color, creating a deterrent in communities most at risk of HIV/AIDS.

A national coalition of more than [200 community organizations](#), health care educators and advocates are uniting in an effort to stop CVS Caremark Corp. from locking condoms in its drugstores nationwide.

Today's rally in Pomona is part of a national movement calling on CVS to stop selling expired products and stop locking condoms in all its stores. Activists also spoke out against CVS's retail practices in Atlanta; Boston; Chicago; Dallas; Detroit; Houston; Indianapolis; Newark; Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; Providence; San Diego; Stamford, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. today.

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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