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Rallies in Providence, Across the U.S. Call on CVS to Adopt New Policies: Stop Selling Expired Products, Stop Locking Up Condoms

Providence, Rhode Island – Providence-area consumer advocates will rally this evening at 5:00 PM outside the CVS at 70 Kennedy Plaza, calling on CVS to adopt new corporate policies to protect consumers. Citing concerns for public health over CVS's sale of expired products and practice of locking condom cases in some stores, advocates will shed light on new findings from surveys of the company's stores.

Despite Reprimands, CVS Still Selling Expired Products

After revealing last month that CVS pharmacies in Greater Providence were selling expired milk, infant formula and over-the-counter medications, consumer advocates called on the company to clean up its stores – and its act. But spot checks done earlier this month revealed CVS stores in the area are still selling expired goods. Of the 20 CVS stores visited in early June, 60% were caught selling expired products, including expired milk, infant formula and over-the-counter medications. Health experts have warned against using products past their expiration date.

"It's unethical to cut corners with our healthcare," said Brother Jakob Lazarus Thibault, of the North American Old Catholic Church. "With CVS earning billions of dollars in annual revenue, we have paid for the right to be treated like human beings!"

Regulators Across the Country Taking Action on CVS's Expired Products

California Attorney General Jerry Brown announced last week that CVS will pay almost \$1 million to settle allegations of misleading customers and unfair business practices stemming from the sale of expired products and of failing to adequately protect and dispose of customers' confidential personal and medical information.

As part of the deal with California, CVS agreed to require bimonthly removal of expired products and improve employee training in its more than 800 California stores. However this agreement only applies to California.

"Expired products don't just put people in California at risk," said John Prince of Direct Action for Rights & Equality (DARE). "They put people at risk everywhere. If CVS is willing to take action on expired goods in California, it should be willing to take action on this issue everywhere."

In addition to the recent California settlement, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has also criticized CVS for its sale of expired products: in late 2008,

Cuomo sued the company for its ongoing violations in New York State. And the Philadelphia City Council will vote today on legislation that would clamp down on the sale of expired goods in the city. The Council was frustrated specifically by CVS's repeated sale of expired products.

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

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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