



**GARDEN STATE
EQUALITY**

December 17th, 2018

Peter Mucchetti
Chief, Healthcare and Consumer Products Section
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
450 Fifth Street NW, Suite 4100
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Mucchetti,

I am writing today to highlight the positive benefits that CVS Health has brought to communities in the New York tri-state and communities across America.

In New York, CVS Health provides an accessible, supportive and personalized health care experience through its over 570 stores, 19 MinuteClinics, 47 nurse practitioners and over 16,500 employees. These stores and MinuteClinics provide access to high-quality, affordable care and health advice for patients.

Beyond its pharmacies and clinics, CVS Health has long been a leader in putting patients' health first and improving public health here in New York and New Jersey. Key CVS Health initiatives include:

Removing tobacco from their stores: As a result of CVS Health's 2014 decision to stop selling all tobacco products at their stores nationwide, 95 million fewer packs of cigarettes were sold just eight months after the end of tobacco sales. And through its five-year, \$50 million Be The First initiative, CVS Health is working to support youth smoking prevention and deliver the first tobacco-free generation. In March 2018, CVS Health announced \$10 million in new grants and investments to support this endeavor, including a \$1,400,000 grant to Yale University's play2PREVENT Lab.

Helping fight against the opioid epidemic: More recently, CVS Health has demonstrated its commitment to public health by expanding their multi-front fight against the opioid epidemic through enhanced opioid utilization management practices that follow the Centers for Disease Control Guidelines, as well as an expanded drug disposal collection program.

Free health screenings: Every year through its Project Health campaign, CVS Health offers free biometric screenings for New York and New Jersey families to help identify chronic conditions



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before they become life-threatening illnesses.

As an organization that strives every day to advance the health of all residents of New Jersey and neighboring states, we strongly support these important initiatives and CVS Health's ongoing commitment to our communities and our state. And as an advocate for Garden State Equality, we are proud to call them a partner.

Sincerely,

Christian Fuscarino
Executive Director
Garden State Equality