



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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December 13, 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

Subject: CVS Health's Public Health Commitments

Dear Mr. Mucchetti:

I am writing today to offer public comments in advance of the hearing scheduled for December 18, 2018 on CVS Health's proposed acquisition of Aetna. I want to highlight the positive benefits that CVS Health has brought to communities across America, which will only be amplified across this newly combined company.

CVS Health provides an accessible, supportive and personalized health care experience through its over 10,000 stores, 1100 MinuteClinics, 68,000 network retail pharmacies and over 250,000 employees. These stores and MinuteClinics provide much needed 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 in the communities where they operate. The combination of CVS Health and Aetna will only multiply this community contribution: Key CVS Health initiatives reaching some of our most vulnerable citizens 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.

- **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 families to help identify chronic conditions before they become life-threatening illnesses. This past October alone, CVS Health delivered \$2.3 million worth of free screenings across 13 major markets, many of which with higher rates of uninsured and under-insured Americans.
- **Growing communities through supplier diversity:** CVS Health's impact through supplier diversity comes from directly contracting with suppliers, those companies spending with others and the employees of suppliers spending in their respective communities. This commitment has resulted in \$2.3 billion dollars worth of spend with small and diverse suppliers, supporting more than 38,000 jobs.

As an organization that strives every day to advance the health and well-being of underserved communities, we strongly support the opportunity presented by the combination of Aetna and CVS Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric J. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Eric J. Williams, DNP, RN, CNE, FAAN
President