

Maurice E. Sullivan  
President

Tel. 217-839-2909  
Fax 217-839-1300

Sullivan Drug, Inc.  
P. O. Box 59  
113 South Macoupin  
Gillespie, Illinois 62033

December 13, 2018

Peter Mucchetti, Chief  
Healthcare and Consumer Products Section  
Antitrust Division  
450 Fifth Street N.W., Suite 4100  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chief Mucchetti,

I am writing this letter to express opposition to the merger of CVS/Caremark and Aetna. The merger between CVS, a large retail pharmacy chain, and Caremark, a major Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) organization, should never have been allowed in the first place. This was, and is, an unbelievable conflict of interest and a vertical monopoly.

I am a pharmacist. My father, uncle, and two of my sons are pharmacists. We have been providing pharmacy services to Central Illinois since 1930. We presently have seven independent pharmacies in small communities. If the present abuse to independent pharmacies by the PBMs is allowed to continue, none will survive.

Caremark, as a PBM, controls a large portion of the prescription medications dispensed in our country. As one would suspect, Caremark makes every effort to insure the prescriptions under its control are dispensed by a CVS pharmacy or their own mail-order pharmacy (another conflict of interest). We have many examples of our patients being forced to obtain their prescriptions from CVS or the Caremark mail-order pharmacy. In addition, we have verified data proving Caremark often pays CVS a much greater reimbursement for filling the exact same prescription. This in itself should be illegal.

With this pattern of behavior, there is little doubt the merger of CVS/Caremark with Aetna will just solidify a larger, more abusive, monopoly. Instead of allowing this merger, the incestuous relationship between CVS/ Caremark should be dissolved.

Yours truly,



Maurice E. Sullivan, R.Ph  
President  
Sullivan Drugs, Inc.  
113 S. Macoupin  
Gillespie, Illinois 62033  
Tel. 217-839-2909  
Fax 217-839-1300  
E-m: [REDACTED]