

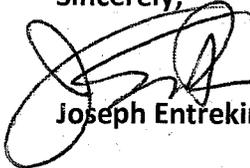
**Garrett Drug Company  
116 Buchanan St. N.  
Bremen, GA 30110**

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

**Dear Mr. Mucchetti:**

**I oppose the merger between CVS and Aetna. I've been an independent pharmacy owner for seventeen years and have seen the many detrimental effects of chains getting bigger and bigger. They have access to my data, down to the last detail about each of my patients, which they use to contact my customer base on a monthly basis through phone calls and direct mail attempting to lure them away from my business. They use tactics that should be illegal such as offering lower or zero co-pays if the customer will come to their store instead of mine, knowing I'm not allowed to reduce co-pays to compete since it is deemed illegal in my contract. The playing field is already sloped in the chains favor to the point that many independent pharmacies are finding it difficult to survive. We are reimbursed below cost in as much as twenty percent of claims based on the "take it or leave it" contracts we are forced to sign then the claw backs come six months later that takes more money from our businesses leaving us underwater on even more claims. One of the worst things that was ever allowed to happen was when chain stores were allowed to purchase and run pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). It is so unfair that it is unfathomable to me that it was ever allowed to happen. The chains tactics are so egregious, they border on having the appearance of criminal. I'm sure, as with all things that have big money attached to them, this merger will happen and be merely a bump in the road to ninety percent of the country but to those of us who are affected, it could be the end of the world as we know it.**

**Sincerely,**



**Joseph Entrekin, Pharm.D., RPh.**