

Dec. 3rd, 2018

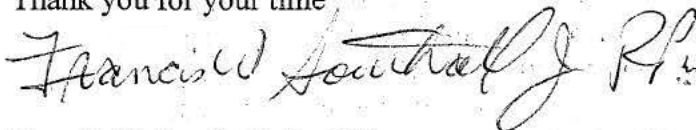
**Francis W. Southall, Jr RPh
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325 W Walnut st. Suite 500
Lebanon, Ky. 40033**

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

Dear Sir

I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed merger between CVS and Aetna. I am an independent pharmacist who owns my own business. The proposed merger would be very detrimental to many small businesses and healthcare in general. Many reasons come to mind including Aetna's "spinoff" of their Medicare Part D business to Wellcare. Wellcare uses CVS to process their claims. This seems to be the equivalent of the fox guarding the henhouse. CVS has in the past been fined in various states for such practices as "spread pricing", reporting their own violations, customer steering, bullying, retaliation and other anticompetitive practices. Nothing seems to stop or even slow down these practices. We already are dealing with below cost reimbursement and take it or leave it contracts that makes staying in business very difficult. CVS controls much of the pharmacy reimbursement in the country now and I feel this merger would increase their control of this market. I understand you are feeling "kept in the dark , kind of like a mushroom" when it comes to the merger. Welcome to our world. I am nearing retirement age but I have a son who is a recent graduate of pharmacy school and I would like to encourage him to one day own his own store. The future of U.S. healthcare already scares me to death but with mergers such as these we will have to deal with, I am not very optimistic. This merger would not only be bad for small businesses in general but I feel it would be very devastating to the entire healthcare system in the U.S.

Thank you for your time

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis W. Southall, Jr. RPh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Francis W. Southall, Jr. RPh