

12/11/18

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

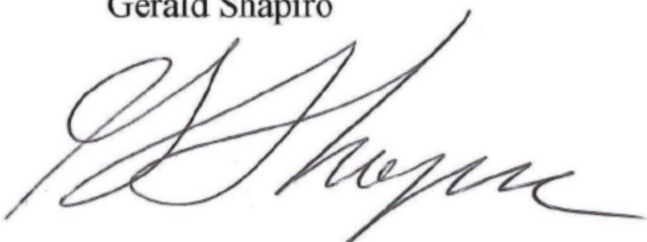
My name is Gerald Shapiro and I am the owner of Uptown Drug Co [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Rather than call myself a
Pharmacist (which I am), I consider myself a patient advocate.

This proposed merger is so anti patient in so many ways. I believe that you need to examine the past behavior of the two companies to have some indication of what the future holds. A couple of examples would be restricted networks which result in poor access and the minute clinics in many CVS stores which certainly cannot be considered anything more the triage care.

They appear to be proposing that not only will they be improving healthcare in this country but will be doing it for less money. If that were truly the case why has healthcare in general and prescription drug services in this country continue to rise at an alarming rate while the rate of inflation has had minor to no increases over the past twenty years. I use a twenty-year period since that is the time frame where consolidation has occurred in the healthcare field, and the major companies control 80% of patients.

All that has happened is the healthcare companies like Aetna and CVS/Caremark have had profits beyond measure and at the same time reduced care and increased out of pocket costs for their beneficiaries. There is also less access due to these vertical integrations.

Sincerely
Gerald Shapiro

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. Shapiro', written in black ink.