

12/15/2018

Ms. Rebecca Holt
Holt's Pharmacy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chief Peter J. Mucchetti
Healthcare and Consumer Products Section
Antitrust Division
Liberty Square Building, Suite 4100
450 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chief Mucchetti,

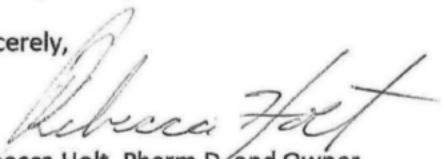
I urge you to do all in your power to stop the CVS Caremark/Aetna Merger. Such a merger will tie two companies that, together, will impose an appreciable restraint on free competition in the pharmaceutical market resulting in poorer care and higher costs to the American health consumer.

I am the owner of an independent pharmacy, Holt's Pharmacy in a community of approximately 30,000 people. My patients have the option to choose from a handful of large pharmacies, including Walmart and Walgreens, but they choose to do business with me. I provide more attentive care at a lower price for the patient. This is what free market competition is about, and it is the motive that could be driving all improvements in the health care industry if regulations were not drawn to favor large corporations getting larger.

The concern behind the CVS and Aetna merger rests in their combined ability to force Aetna's entire insured patient block to use CVS Pharmacies and Mail Order Systems. This limitation has already begun to play out. Often, coverage for my patients' prescription refills at my pharmacy is rejected, and when they contact their insurer to inquire as to why, they are directed to the CVS Mail Order system. My patients do not want to use mail order pharmacies. They appreciate the value and exceptional service my pharmacy offers. The CVS Caremark/Aetna Merger will only serve to further funnel patients into monopoly organizations in the healthcare market, eliminating smaller pharmacies and also competition.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Rebecca Holt, Pharm.D. and Owner