

Dear Chief Peter Mucchetti,

I write this letter to you in between seeing patients. My name is Blake Torres. I am a community pharmacy owner in Benton, Arkansas. Recently, the DOJ approved the merger of Aetna and CVS Health. I would ask that the DOJ reconsider and decide against this merger for the following reasons:

- 1) Restrictive Health Network
CVS Health has consistently shown that they do everything they can to steer patients/restrict patients to their own CVS pharmacies. This eliminates patient choice, eliminates competition, which drives providing higher quality care. If Aetna patients are forced to use CVS what incentivizes CVS to provide high quality care? They won't, they are under-staffed, long wait times, high medication error rates, poor outcomes. Please don't ask Mr. Merlo if this is true, ask a staff pharmacist at CVS. Yet the DOJ is "rubber stamping" the formation of this oligarchy.
- 2) Fraudulent / Illegal Activity
Kentucky fined CVS Health \$1.5 million for "committing hundreds of violations in processing claims of individual pharmacies." CVS Health has an established reputation for putting profits over patients. Again, don't ask me, ask patients and providers. Please I implore you to get out of your office and meetings with execs and see that the DOJ approving of this merger and further shrinking the market will result in patient harm.
- 3) Increased Patient/Citizen Costs
At the end of the day CVS Health answers to stockholders only. Therefore, I only ask that you review the recent report by the State of Ohio's auditor into CVS Health's billing practices. This merger will result in oligarchy/monopoly and will be detrimental to both patients and payers^{tax}.

Sincerely,
Blake Torres, PharmD