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## **CVS Stores in Greater Houston Have Failed to Adequately Address Expired Goods, Condom Access, according to new study by Cure CVS**

HOUSTON – Consumer advocates will rally outside the CVS store at 806 S. 75<sup>th</sup> Street this evening starting at 5:00 PM, calling on the pharmacy chain to stop selling expired products and stop locking condoms. A new study, released today, found that Greater Houston CVS stores have failed to adequately address these issues since a February survey of 34 local CVS stores found expired dairy products, medication or infant formula for sale at 90% of the stores visited.

CVS stores surveyed in Houston are more than three times more likely to lock condoms in communities of color than in zip codes that are majority white, according to surveys conducted by Cure CVS. CVS's closest competitor Walgreen's has a policy against locking up condoms in any of its stores.

Advocates will chant "Hey hey, ho ho, expired products have to go!" and will display items past their "sell by" dates recently purchased at local CVS stores, including CVS-brand medication more than three years past its expiration date.

Houston-based groups are calling for CVS to adopt new corporate policies after the California Attorney General announced last week that CVS will pay almost \$1 million to settle allegations of misleading customers and unfair business practices stemming from the sale of expired products and of failing to adequately protect and dispose of customers' confidential personal and medical information.

CVS agreed to require bimonthly removal of expired products and improved employee training in its more than 800 California stores; however that agreement only applies to California. The Attorney General of New York has sued CVS over the sale of expired goods in New York as well.

"The SHAPE Community Center is all about building strong and healthy families. With its repeated and rampant sale of expired products, it is clear that CVS is not helping our cause," said Deloyd T. Parker, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Self-Help for African People through Education (SHAPE). "Selling expired products puts the health of our community members' at risk, and CVS's failure to clean up its act is unacceptable. CVS is underestimating the community's will as far as challenging its behavior and demanding better. The community is committed to exposing these harmful practices at CVS. The SHAPE center operates under the principles of unity, self-determination, and collective work. We are going to work collectively as a community to pull the covers off of CVS and its potentially dangerous practices."

Today's rally in Houston is part of a national movement calling on CVS to stop selling expired products and stop locking condoms in all its stores. Activists also spoke out against CVS's retail practices in Atlanta; Boston; Chicago; Dallas; Detroit; Indianapolis; Los Angeles; Newark; Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; Providence; San Diego; Stamford, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. today.

A national coalition of more than [200 community organizations](#), health care educators and advocates are uniting in an effort to stop CVS Caremark Corp. from locking condoms in its drugstores nationwide.

For more information visit [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org)

**Cure CVS** is an initiative by Change to Win and partner organizations to reform the drugstore industry, starting with CVS, the country's leading provider of prescription drugs and largest drugstore chain. By joining concerned citizen groups with the six million members of Change to Win unions, Cure CVS aims to ensure that CVS provides equal access across all communities and income levels to its stores and services, offers fair and accurate prices, provides quality products and services, protects customers' privacy and puts quality pharmacy care first.

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