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National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, Call on CVS to Stop Selling Expired Products, Stop Locking Up Condoms, Adopt New Policies

CVS Fails to Adequately Address Expired Goods in Most Metro Indianapolis Stores Surveyed, According to New Study by Cure CVS

Indianapolis, Indiana – Local chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Planned Parenthood, Jobs with Justice and other groups held a noontime rally outside a local CVS store at 5110 E. 38th Street on Thursday, calling on the company to stop selling expired goods and stop locking up condoms in its stores. The rally was one of 14 events taking place outside CVS stores across the country today.

Marion Wagner, President of the Indiana chapter of NOW said, “We join in condemning CVS for selling expired goods and locking up condoms in its stores in Indianapolis. CVS should treat its customers with dignity and respect.”

Nearly a month after a study revealed the widespread presence of expired goods in local CVS stores, the group Cure CVS conducted spot checks to see if local CVS stores had removed expired goods from their shelves. Results of these spot checks, announced today, showed that in more than half of the CVS stores surveyed, expired medications were still found on the shelves. Results included a container of CVS-brand medication that was one year past its expiration date.

News of Metro Indianapolis CVS stores’ failure to adequately address the problem of expired products comes in the wake of CVS paying nearly \$1 million to the State of California 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. Indianapolis-based groups are calling for CVS to adopt new national policies.

“There’s no reason why CVS shouldn’t adopt the stipulations of the California settlement as a new national policy to better protect their customers everywhere. Obviously, CVS’s current expired product policies are fatally flawed,” said Allison Luthé, of Central Indiana Jobs with Justice.

Condom Access

CVS stores surveyed in Indiana are far 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.

"Accessibility to condoms should not be an issue in this day and age when HIV/AIDS remains a problem. Any entity in a position to ensure that condoms are both accessible and affordable should make strides to do so. Locking up condoms creates an unnecessary barrier for responsible individuals who want to purchase an essential method of protection, and the practice hinders efforts to reduce the rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Planned Parenthood of Indiana believes contraceptives should be affordable and easy to access in order to reduce the rates of infection and unintended pregnancies in the state of Indiana," said Sonia Santana, Director of Advocacy for Planned Parenthood of Indiana.

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 <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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