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March 6, 2023

Rosalind Brewer
Chief Executive Officer
Walgreen Company
200 Wilmot Rd.
Deerfield, IL 60015

Dear Ms. Brewer,

I write with great urgency following reports that Walgreens has capitulated to Republican attorneys general in 21 states in announcing it will not dispense mifepristone – a safe and common abortion medication – in those states.¹ This blanket decision is an abdication of your company's responsibility as a health care provider. You have decided, in effect, to put profits over people and have succumbed to bullying and intimidation by hard right ideologues, saying, "you win, women lose."

I write today demanding immediate assurances that Walgreens will reverse course and not back down – legally or morally – in providing your patients with access to mifepristone, a drug that is legal in every state² and is prescribed for use independent of abortion.³

On January 3, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced new regulations that allow retail pharmacies to seek certification to dispense mifepristone both in stores and through the mail.⁴ This critical step makes abortion care more accessible at a time when it is under threat like never before. I was pleased to see Walgreens immediately announce your intention to seek certification.⁵ This move will greatly expand access to the most common form of abortion care for millions of people throughout the country.

¹ See <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/03/health/walgreens-abortion-pills.html>

² See, e.g., https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2000/20687_mifepristone.cfm (FDA approving mifepristone over 20 years ago).

³ See <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12484667/> (discussing mifepristone's "additional applications to health care, including the treatment of gynecologic conditions, cancer, and Cushing's disease"); <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1715726> (finding that mifepristone, in combination with misoprostol, offers the most effective medication regimen for managing an early miscarriage).

⁴ <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/information-about-mifepristone-medical-termination-pregnancy-through-ten-weeks-gestation>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/05/health/abortion-pills-cvs-walgreens.html>

Despite this clear step in the right direction, I was concerned to see AGs from 21 states⁶ – including some states where abortion care remains legal⁷ – bully and intimidate pharmacies into denying their patients the right to access the medication they need and are entitled to receive. In at least one instance, it has clearly worked: late last week, Walgreens capitulated and left the reproductive rights of its customers in the wakes of its cowardly decision.

To be clear, during this moment of crisis for access to reproductive rights, health care providers such as your company should be using every tool at its disposal to assure everyone access to care no matter where they live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard Blumenthal". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

⁶ https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2023-02-01-fda-rule---walgreens-letter-danielle-gray.pdf?sfvrsn=ff1e6652_2; <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2023/02/20/walgreens-announces-it-will-not-send-abortion-pills-into-kansas-after-receiving-letter-from-ag-kobach>

⁷ For example, abortion care remains legal under state law in Alaska, Kansas, Iowa, and Montana. *See* <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/>.