

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2023

Roz Brewer
Chief Executive Officer
Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.
108 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Dear Ms. Brewer,

We write with grave concerns about the misunderstanding and confusion your company has created with regard to patients' access to mifepristone from retail pharmacies. Earlier this month, it was reported that Walgreens does not intend to fill prescriptions for a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drug in states where it is legal for patients to access that product. While we are well aware of threatening letters you received with regard to the distribution of mifepristone in certain states, the response to those pressures was unacceptable and appeared to yield to these threats—ignoring the critical need to ensure patients can get this essential health care wherever possible. As you work through the FDA certification process, we urge you to fully assess the laws in each state and ensure your policies provide the strongest possible legal access to this critical patient care.

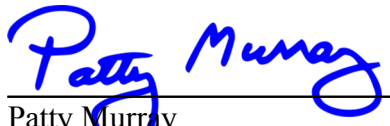
The FDA approved mifepristone more than 20 years ago after finding the product met its safety and effectiveness standards. Today, mifepristone is used in more than half of all abortions nationwide and is a critical part of comprehensive reproductive health care for patients across the country. We appreciate that immediately following the FDA's January 3, 2023 update to the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS) for mifepristone, Walgreens announced that it would be pursuing authorization to become a certified pharmacy distributor. Under this new guidance, retail pharmacies can apply to dispense this medication directly to patients, either through the mail or at a pharmacy counter. This change in policy removes a burdensome barrier for patients, improving access to medication abortion for women around the country.

At a time of great confusion about abortion access, your company has done the disservice of adding to it. Medication abortion is under threat at the federal level and in many states. We understand that Walgreens must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including requirements on where and by whom the product can be dispensed. Many of the state attorneys general that wrote to your company last month have outright bans on access to abortion; others have restrictions that limit dispensing to a physician or require an in person visit. As you continue with the FDA certification process and fully comply with state and federal law, it is critical that your company also provides the strongest possible access to this vital medication and communicates clearly about this. To that end, we ask for your response to the following questions:


- If certified, how do you plan to notify current customers about access to mifepristone in any given state, where restrictions do and do not exist?
- If a new state law to restrict access to medication abortion is proposed, at what stage will you clarify to your customers whether they still have access to mifepristone?
- Will your company conduct any community outreach to ensure customers are aware of the full range of legal health services available to them?

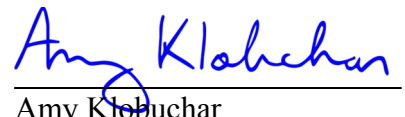
Pharmacists are one of the most trusted health care providers, and we know they already face daily intimidation tactics just in the prospect of dispensing this prescription drug. We also know that your customers rely on Walgreens to help them understand the products they are taking. It is imperative that Walgreens clarify its approach to the distribution of mifepristone, if certified to do so, and clearly explain to your customers and the public where and how the product could be accessible. To that end, we look forward to hearing back from you by March 21, 2023 about your efforts to ensure access to this critical FDA-approved product.


Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

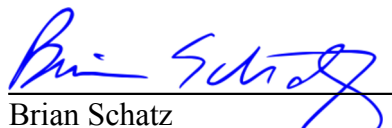

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

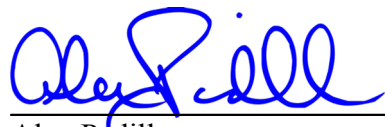

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

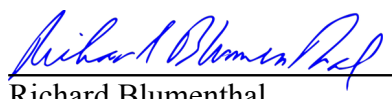

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

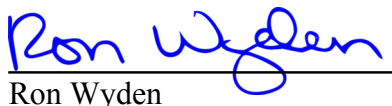

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
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Richard Blumenthal
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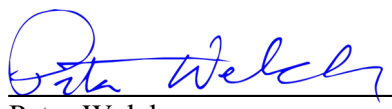

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

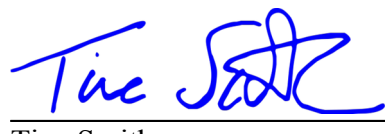

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

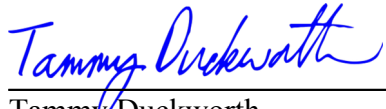

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Jack Reed
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator


Peter Welch
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator