AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.

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June 14, 2018

Insurance Commissioner
c/o Bruce Hinze, Attorney IV
California Department of Insurance
45 Fremont St., 23rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Insurance Commissioner:

I am writing today to share information on the American Lung Association's partnership with CVS Health in advance of their proposed acquisition of Aetna. We are proud to have partnered with CVS Health since 2014 as, together, we work to achieve our vision of a world free of lung disease.

The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. For more than 110 years, the Lung Association has been working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research as we work on behalf of the 33 million Americans living with lung disease including asthma, lung cancer and COPD.

While there are many risk factors for lung disease, smoking remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in this country. The total estimated cost attributable to cigarette smoking is over $332 billion annually. This includes over $175 billion in direct medical expenses in 2013, productivity losses from premature death of over $150 billion among current and former smokers and over $5.6 billion from secondhand smoke exposure among nonsmokers. Nearly 70 percent of smokers say they want to quit but tobacco use is an incredibly powerful addiction. I'm proud that the Lung Association has been helping people quit smoking for almost 40 years through our Freedom from Smoking® program and is ranked as one of the most effective programs in the country.

CVS Health also recognizes the terrible toll from tobacco and made a courageous decision to put health before profit by removing tobacco products from their stores – a move their competitors have not followed. This forward-looking company recognized the incompatibility of pharmacies selling this lethal product. In the ensuing four years, CVS Health continues to support efforts to reduce tobacco use and promote smoking cessation. Together with the National Urban League we are embarking on an effort to provide smoking cessation services to the African American Community in four key markets, distributing free CVS Health brand nicotine replacement therapies to interested Freedom From Smoking participants, and coordinating on a campaign this May to offer discounted smoking cessation treatment options for CVS Health consumers.

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At the American Lung Association, we are committed to reducing the burden of lung disease and improving patient outcomes.

Sincerely,

Harold Wimmer
National President and CEO

CC: Marta Green, Chief Deputy Director
Rachel Arrezola, Deputy Director, Communications and Planning
Deputy Pritika Dutt, Deputy Director, Office of Financial Review Director
Cassandra McTaggart, Deputy Director, Office of Administrative Services
Mary Watanabe, Deputy Director, Health Policy and Stakeholder Relations
Jenny Phillips, Deputy Director, Legislation