



Providing quality primary health care to people in need

604 Rose Avenue
Venice, CA 90291
310.392.8630
www.venicefamilyclinic.org

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June 18, 2018

Insurance Commissioner
C/O Bruce Hinze, Attorney IV
California Department of Insurance
45 Fremont Street, 23rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: CVS Health's Public Health Commitments

Dear Mr. Hinze:

I am writing today on behalf of Venice Family Clinic to offer public comments in advance of the hearing that the Department of Insurance will be holding on CVS Health's proposed acquisition of Aetna. I want to highlight the positive benefits that CVS Health has brought to communities in California and communities across America.

In California, CVS Health provides an accessible, supportive and personalized health care experience through its over 1,110 stores, 58 MinuteClinics, 129 nurse practitioners and over 26,900 employees. These stores and MinuteClinics provide access to high-quality, affordable care and health advice for patients.

Beyond its pharmacies and clinics, CVS Health has long been a leader in putting patients' health first and improving public health here in California. At Venice Family Clinic we have toured CVS facilities as part of our learning journeys allowing us to gain valuable insight and improve our services. Key CVS Health initiatives that have helped the communities we serve include:

- **Removing tobacco from their stores:** As a result of CVS Health's 2014 decision to stop selling all tobacco products at their stores nationwide, 95 million fewer packs of cigarettes were sold just eight months after the end of tobacco sales.
- **Helping fight against the opioid epidemic:** More recently, CVS Health has demonstrated its commitment to public health by expanding their multi-front fight against the opioid epidemic through enhanced opioid utilization management practices that follow the Centers for Disease Control Guidelines, as well as an expanded drug disposal collection program.
- **Free health screenings:** Every year through its Project Health campaign, CVS Health offers free biometric screenings for California families to help identify chronic conditions before they become life-threatening illnesses.

At Venice Family Clinic, we provide 26,000 people with low incomes quality primary health care services and we have benefited from CVS Health's ongoing commitment to the communities we serve. Venice Family Clinic is proud of our partnership with CVS Health and appreciates their work to improve the health of Californians.

Sincerely,

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
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Jenny Phillips, Deputy Director, Legislation

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