

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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RISK MANAGEMENT
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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

June 1, 2009

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1203 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
1202 220-8405

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1046 N. MAIN STREET
SUITE 6
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
(419) 354-8700

101 CLINTON STREET
SUITE 1200
DELIANCE, OH 43612
(419) 792-1998

130 SHADY LANE DRIVE
NORWALK, OH 44867
(419) 866-0208

Mr. Jon Leibowitz
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580-0002

Dear Mr. Leibowitz,

I am writing to ask the Commission to reopen its investigation of CVS Corporation's acquisition of Caremark Corporation. The merger, cleared by the FTC in November, 2007, combined CVS, the largest pharmacy chain, with Caremark, the second largest Pharmaceutical Benefit Manager ("PBM").

I am concerned that CVS Caremark may be engaging in business practices that could cause harm to both consumers and local independent community pharmacies. Examples of such business practices brought to my attention include:

- Caremark members being told they can only obtain their chronic-use prescription medications from either a Caremark mail order pharmacy, or a CVS retail pharmacy. This can reduce patient choice and create potential quality of care problems if the consumer does not have all their medications managed by one pharmacy.
- Caremark members having to pay high co-payments for prescription drugs for maintenance medications, as compared to much lower co-payments at the Caremark mail order pharmacy or the CVS retail pharmacy. This means that the patient must drive a long distance, may be forced to use mail order, or must pay the higher co-payment to use their regular independent pharmacy.
- Steering of patients to CVS pharmacies through the use of personal identifiable health information generated by another pharmacy. CVS pharmacists are notified by their electronic prescription processing system if a consumer has filled prescriptions at another non-CVS pharmacy. In these situations, the CVS pharmacist is instructed to inform the consumer of the dangers of using multiple pharmacies. The CVS pharmacy would likely attempt to transfer the non-CVS filled prescriptions to the CVS pharmacy.

These examples cause me sufficient concern to ask you to investigate these and other CVS/Caremark practices which may be harmful to consumers and violate any firewalls that the two companies were required to institute in order for the merger to be approved.

I encourage the FTC to reopen the CVS Caremark merger investigation and determine if the acquisition poses a threat of reducing competition or whether CVS is engaging in any unfair or deceptive practices. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

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