

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2023

Vivek Sankaran Chief Executive Officer Albertsons Companies, Inc. 250 E Parkcenter Blvd. Boise, ID 83706

Dear Mr. Sankaran,

We write with great frustration that Albertsons has not indicated whether it plans to allow your customers to access mifepristone through your pharmacies. We are well aware of threatening letters a number of companies received with regard to the distribution of mifepristone in certain states, and are concerned by this intimidation and the potential for it to lead companies like yours to continue to sit on the sidelines and undermine critical care for your customers. We urge you to pursue policies that provide the strongest possible access to the full range of essential health care they need, including mifepristone, and to communicate clearly to your customers about how they can access this care.

The Food and Drug Administration (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. Immediately following the FDA's January 3, 2023 update to the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS) for mifepristone, several large retail pharmacies announced that they 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.

We are writing to understand your company's plan to support access to this vital medication through the REMS certification process. Pharmacists are one of the most trusted health care providers, and your customers rely on Albertsons to help them access their prescribed medications. We look forward to hearing back from you by March 21, 2023 about your intentions to ensure access to this critical FDA-approved product.

Sincerely,

Patty Murr

United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

United States Senator

Alex Padilla United States Senator

Bernard Sanders United States Senator

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Debbie Stabenow United States Senator

Maria Cantwell United States Senator

Brian Schatz United States Senator

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Richard Blumenthal United States Senator

Ron Wyden United States Senator

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Cory A. Booker United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse United States Senator

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Tina Smith United States Senator

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Amy Klobuchar United States Senator

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Jack Reed United States Senator

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Peter Welch United States Senator

Tammy Direkwatt

Tammy Duckworth United States Senator