



The Pharmacy Guild/IAM
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Sent by Electronic Mail on May 21, 2025

TO: Julia Pontoni, Director
Michael Welter, Rapid Response Coordinator
Office of Workforce Investments
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
3225 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

RE: Layoffs Associated with CVS Acquisition of Rite Aid Pharmacies in Oregon

Dear Director Pontoni and Coordinator Welter:

We are writing with an urgent concern that mass pharmacy layoffs in Oregon may be imminent due to the Pending Rite Aid chapter 11 bankruptcy.

We are The Pharmacy Guild/IAM, a national voice for pharmacy professionals, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. We are both a union and professional association that advocates for safe patient care, industry standards, and our professional rights at work. We represent pharmacy professionals across the country who put their professional and ethical obligations to patients before the interests of corporate chain pharmacies. As the legally authorized collective bargaining representative of multiple groups of CVS pharmacy professionals, we are writing to express serious concern about potential layoffs and store closures by Rite Aid in Oregon and the implications of CVS Health's planned acquisition of those locations.

In 2023, Rite Aid laid off more than 135 employees in Oregon, and this year alone, it has closed 12 stores across the state as part of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. Now, CVS Health has announced plans to acquire many of these former Rite Aid locations without adequate assurances to preserve pharmacy jobs and associated community services. While this sale has the potential to preserve access to pharmacy services— CVS Health has not taken appropriate steps to ensure these expected acquisitions prevent mass layoffs and disruptions in patient care.

We are calling on the Office of Workforce Investment to investigate this acquisition and take steps to ensure protections for displaced and transitioning pharmacy workers, as well as for patients reliant on these services. Specifically we urge that:

- Layoffs at acquired locations be prevented.

- Rite Aid pharmacists be offered continued employment at CVS Health-run locations to help alleviate chronic understaffing in community pharmacies.
- Current employees not be required to reapply for positions they already hold.
- CVS Health be required to bargain with union representatives to prevent layoffs and ensure fair transitions.
- CVS Health take a neutral position in any union organizing efforts and elections.

Oregon communities—particularly those in rural or underserved areas—depend on community pharmacies for essential healthcare services. We urge the Office of Workforce Investment to consider ways to support pharmacy professionals during this transition, including the items we listed above, as well as exploring Work Share arrangements, partial unemployment, or standby programs that can help prevent total job loss and service gaps.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your efforts to protect Oregon's pharmacy workforce and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,



Jon Irvine
Coordinator, The Pharmacy Guild/IAM
IAM Healthcare

Cc: David Joyner, President and CEO, CVS Health
Larry McGrath, EVP and Chief Strategic Advisor to the CEO, CVS Health
Matt Schroeder, CEO, Rite Aid

Shane Brinton, Director, The Pharmacy Guild/IAM
Beth Pease, Assistant Coordinator, The Pharmacy Guild/IAM
Maria Roeper, Associate General Counsel, IAM Union