



State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Vivek Sankaran  
Albertson's Companies, Inc.  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Sankaran:

I am writing to remind Albertson's Companies, Inc. (Albertson's) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

The California Constitution as well as multiple statutes provide that minors can obtain reproductive healthcare, including the prevention of pregnancy, without parental consent. The California Constitution's right to privacy, which applies to private actors as well as the state, guarantees that minors can choose to continue or terminate a pregnancy without parental

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<sup>1</sup> See FDA, Plan B One-Step (1.5 mg levonorgestrel) Information, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/plan-b-one-step-15-mg-levonorgestrel-information>.

<sup>2</sup> UCLA Ctr. on Repro. Health, Law & Policy, Barriers to Minor Access to Emer. Contraception in Cal. Pharmacies, 7 (Nov. 2023), [https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Center\\_on\\_Reproductive\\_Health/2311%20Minor%20Contraception%20Pharm%20FINAL.pdf](https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Center_on_Reproductive_Health/2311%20Minor%20Contraception%20Pharm%20FINAL.pdf).

consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Albertson’s to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Albertson’s to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Albertson’s employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>3</sup> See Cal. Const., art. 1 § 1; *Am. Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren* (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307, 356-57; see also *Hill v. Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Assn.* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 1, 26; *Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo, Inc. v. Williams* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 860, 873 fn.8 (cert. granted, reversed on other grounds).

<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists’ rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)



State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Karen S. Lynch  
CVS Health Corp.



Dear Ms. Lynch:

I am writing to remind CVS Health Corp. (CVS) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

The California Constitution as well as multiple statutes provide that minors can obtain reproductive healthcare, including the prevention of pregnancy, without parental consent. The California Constitution's right to privacy, which applies to private actors as well as the state, guarantees that minors can choose to continue or terminate a pregnancy without parental

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<sup>1</sup> See FDA, Plan B One-Step (1.5 mg levonorgestrel) Information, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/plan-b-one-step-15-mg-levonorgestrel-information>.

<sup>2</sup> UCLA Ctr. on Repro. Health, Law & Policy, Barriers to Minor Access to Emer. Contraception in Cal. Pharmacies, 7 (Nov. 2023), [https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Center\\_on\\_Reproductive\\_Health/2311%20Minor%20Contraception%20Pharm%20FINAL.pdf](https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Center_on_Reproductive_Health/2311%20Minor%20Contraception%20Pharm%20FINAL.pdf).

consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge CVS to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage CVS to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that CVS employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>3</sup> See Cal. Const., art. 1 § 1; *Am. Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren* (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307, 356-57; see also *Hill v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Assn.* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 1, 26; *Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo, Inc. v. Williams* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 860, 873 fn.8 (cert. granted, reversed on other grounds).

<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists' rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)



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Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Ron M. Vachris  
Costco Wholesale Corp.



Dear Mr. Vachris:

I am writing to remind Costco Wholesale Corp. (Costco) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

The California Constitution as well as multiple statutes provide that minors can obtain reproductive healthcare, including the prevention of pregnancy, without parental consent. The California Constitution's right to privacy, which applies to private actors as well as the state, guarantees that minors can choose to continue or terminate a pregnancy without parental

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<sup>2</sup> UCLA Ctr. on Repro. Health, Law & Policy, Barriers to Minor Access to Emer. Contraception in Cal. Pharmacies, 7 (Nov. 2023), [https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Center\\_on\\_Reproductive\\_Health/2311%20Minor%20Contraception%20Pharm%20FINAL.pdf](https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Center_on_Reproductive_Health/2311%20Minor%20Contraception%20Pharm%20FINAL.pdf).

consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Costco to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Costco to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Costco employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists' rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)





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Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

W. Rodney McMullen  
The Kroger Co.



Dear Mr. McMullen:

I am writing to remind The Kroger Co. (Kroger) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

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consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Kroger to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Kroger to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Kroger employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists’ rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)



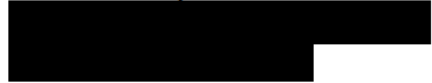


State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Jeffery S. Stein  
Rite Aid Corp.



Dear Mr. Stein:

I am writing to remind Rite Aid Corp. (Rite Aid) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

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consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Rite Aid to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Rite Aid to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Rite Aid employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists’ rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)

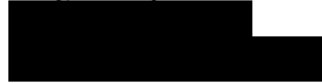


State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Brian Cornell  
Target Corp.



Dear Mr. Cornell:

I am writing to remind Target Corp. (Target) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

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consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Target to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Target to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Target employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists' rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)



State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Tim Wentworth  
Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.



Dear Mr. Wentworth:

I am writing to remind Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (Walgreens) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

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consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Walgreens to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Walgreens to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Walgreens employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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<sup>4</sup> As part of these reviews, I further urge you to ensure that your policies, procedures, and training regimens address pharmacists' rights under California law, to refuse to dispense drugs on “ethical, moral, or religious grounds.” (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 733, subd. (b)(3).) Notably, California law requires that pharmacy employers “shall establish protocols that ensure that the patient has timely access to the prescribed drug or device despite the licentiate’s refusal to dispense the prescription or order.” (*Ibid.*)





State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2024

Doug McMillon  
Walmart Inc.



Dear Mr. McMillon:

I am writing to remind Walmart Inc. (Walmart) of its obligations under California law to ensure minors can access emergency contraception, in particular levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One-Step). As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the state, your compliance with California law on this issue is critical to ensuring that minors are able to obtain essential reproductive healthcare.

As you are likely aware, in 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed all age restrictions from over-the-counter purchases of levonorgestrel.<sup>1</sup> Recently, however, a significant percentage of surveyed pharmacists reported that minors were required to have parental consent or were not permitted in any circumstance to purchase emergency contraception over the counter at their chain pharmacy employers.<sup>2</sup> Imposing such barriers to minors' ability to purchase emergency contraception is contrary to California law.

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consent.<sup>3</sup> California Family Code section 6925, in turn, establishes that minors “can consent to medical care related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy.” Family Code sections 6927 and 6928 likewise establish that minors that have been sexually assaulted “may consent to medical care related to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.”

I urge Walmart Inc. to review its policies and procedures regarding the accessibility of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that those policies and procedures adhere to the requirements of California law. I also encourage Walmart to review its training regimen, and to update it as necessary, to confirm that Walmart employees are aware minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent.<sup>4</sup>

Access to reproductive healthcare is critically important for all individuals, including minors. I appreciate your help in ensuring that minors have the access that they need, and that California law protects.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta  
Attorney General

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