



## MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MSSNY'S RESPONSE TO ASSEMBLYMAN CAHILL LETTER REGARDING CVS-AETNA

#### Statement attributable to:

Thomas Madejski, MD

President, Medical Society of the State of New York

“The Medical Society of the State of New York thanks New York Assembly Insurance Committee Chair Kevin Cahill in joining the California Insurance Commissioner, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Antitrust Institute (AAI) in urging the US Department of Justice to block the proposed acquisition of Aetna by CVS. We agree with concerns he has raised that permitting these behemoths to merge will ‘create a conglomerate that will be too difficult to regulate and will likely harm patient care.’”

MSSNY Past-President Dr. Charles Rothberg had testified earlier this year at an Assembly Insurance Committee chaired by Assemblyman Cahill hearing examining the proposed amalgamation of these companies, raising numerous concerns about the adverse impact to patient access to needed care. These concerns include: reduced community pharmacy access; reduced health insurer competition; increased prior authorization hassles; and marginalization of physician-owned medical homes.

Since the June 4 New York Assembly hearing, California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones submitted an [extensive letter](#) to the US DOJ to block the merger because of the potentially ‘significant anti-competitive impacts on consumers and health care and health insurance markets.’ Commissioner Jones found that the proposed merger poses competitive concerns in the Medicare Part D market, where both companies currently compete, as well as in the highly-concentrated market for PBM services, and in the retail pharmacy market.

Moreover, in August, the AMA submitted to the US DOJ its own [comprehensive analysis](#), raising similar concerns and urging the DOJ to work to block the merger. And, earlier this year, the AAI had raised similar concerns in its [letter to the US DOJ](#).

Several diverse perspectives have resulted in the same conclusion – that this merger would have an adverse impact on patient access to care. We are hopeful that the US DOJ reviews these submissions very carefully, and reaches a similar decision.”

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*Founded in 1807, the Medical Society of the State of New York is the state's principal non-profit professional organization for physicians, residents and medical students of all specialties. Its mission is to represent the interests of patients and physicians to assure quality healthcare services for all.*

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