

January 14, 2005

Michael Montgomery
State Office of AIDS
Department of Health Services
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Walgreens intention to participate in pharmacy sale of syringes

Dear Mr. Montgomery;

Walgreens was a strong proponent of SB 1159, the legislation signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that will allow pharmacies to sell up to ten syringes to an adult without prescription (pursuant to local authorization). In any city or county that authorizes non-prescription sale, Walgreens intends to encourage all of our pharmacies to participate.

We will not however mandate participation, believing that each Pharmacy Manager needs to make that decision based on his or her best judgment. I expect, however, that most (if not all) of our outlets will cooperate with local health departments to implement the life-saving strategies authorized by SB 1159.

I ask that you forward this letter to local health jurisdictions and policymakers to support implementation of SB 1159. Feel free to contact me, if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Philip P. Burgess, RPh
National Director, Pharmacy Affairs
Walgreens
200 Wilmot Rd.
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 914-3241
Fax (847) 914-3109

cc: State Senator John Vasconcellos (retired)
Glenn Backes, Drug Policy Alliance
Anne Lindsay, California Health Officers Association