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**Times of Trenton Letters to The Editor – February 12<sup>th</sup>**

February 12, 2014

“CVS will soon stub out its tobacco sales”

Feb. 5 was a historic day for our nation. National pharmacy retailer CVS announced it will stop selling all tobacco products by Oct. 1. CVS, with more than 7,600 stores in the U.S., is the first national pharmacy chain to decide not to sell tobacco products. This extends its existing policy of not selling electronic smoking devices, including e-cigarettes (“Drug chain CVS will go tobacco-free,” Feb. 6).

Tobacco use is America’s leading cause of preventable death and disease. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90 percent of all tobacco users start before age 21. CVS’ decision will reduce access to tobacco for young people and eliminate the visual temptation of tobacco for people trying to quit or remain tobacco-free.

More than 50 communities in Massachusetts, including Boston, have laws banning tobacco sales in pharmacies, with half banning sales of electronic smoking devices, too. San Francisco, Richmond and California’s Santa Clara County have similar laws.

Being tobacco-free is the healthy decision for individuals and the right decision for CVS, which supports community health and wellness initiatives. By going tobacco-free, CVS is aligning with and promoting the health and longevity of tobacco-free living over the illness and death brought on by tobacco use and exposure to second- and third-hand smoke.

We thank CVS for its leadership, which will undoubtedly encourage more businesses and policymakers to make the same decision.

-- *Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Summit*

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