



**NANCY NATHANSON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 13  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Community Review Board  
Oregon Health Authority, HCMO Program  
500 Summer Street, NE, E-20  
Salem, OR 97301-1097  
[hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov)

May 1, 2024

Dear Community Review Board,

I am submitting this comment for the record in regard to the Oregon Health Authority's review of the planned merger between Kroger and Albertsons and the effects it will have on pharmacy services in Oregon.

As an elected representative in the Oregon State Legislature, I've been closely following Oregon's growing crisis in reliable, convenient access to affordable prescription drugs. I've been particularly focused on slowing the loss of pharmacies. Independent and chain pharmacies have been closing at an alarming rate due to the economic pressures brought on by Pharmacy Benefit Managers, prescription drug intermediaries that negotiate between pharmacies, health insurers, wholesalers, and pharmaceutical companies. In 2008 there were 248 independent pharmacies in Oregon. In 2022, there were only 90 independent pharmacies remaining. Last year 35 more pharmacies closed, including locations in Canby, Hines, Reedsport and Redmond, Albany and Aloha, Milton-Freewater, Mt. Angel, Medford, and elsewhere.

Ultimately, Oregonians have lost their neighborhood pharmacy in towns and cities and rural communities across the state. Kroger and Albertsons' planned merger is poised to make a bad situation worse, and is likely to accelerate the loss of even more community pharmacies. For these reasons, I urge the Community Review Board to exercise all appropriate scrutiny and caution.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nathanson, Oregon State Representative, House District 13