

# Public Comments

## 013 Kroger-Albertsons

This document presents written public comments related to the preliminary review of transaction 013 Kroger-Albertsons by Oregon Health Authority (OHA) under the [Health Care Market Oversight](#) program. OHA held a public comment period from August 8 to August 22, 2023 and received one written public comment via email to [hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov). Comments are presented below in the order received and may include typos or misspellings. Personal contact information for individuals has been removed.

OHA expresses no views on the substance of these comments, and their publication does not constitute an endorsement by OHA of the views expressed.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact us by email at [hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov) or by phone at 503-385-5948. We accept all relay calls.

## Public Comments

### 1. Subject: Kroger-Albertsons Merger: Concern about potential impact on rural pharmacy access

*Received 8/22/23*

Greetings,

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the proposed merger of Kroger and Albertsons and its potential impact on the accessibility of pharmacy services in Oregon's rural communities.

In many of our state's more remote areas, grocery store pharmacies are often the only retail pharmacy option for many miles. These pharmacies serve a critical function, offering essential prescription medications, vaccinations, and health consultations to vulnerable populations.

The merger of Kroger and Albertsons could lead to the consolidation or even closure of multiple pharmacy locations, reducing the number of accessible pharmacy locations in communities where alternatives are scarce or non-existent. Such reductions in accessibility could force patients in rural Oregon to travel longer distances for their medications or forgo them altogether, creating major financial and transportation barriers and significant health risks.

While mergers can lead to operational efficiencies and cost savings for companies, it is crucial to consider the potential unintended consequences on the communities they serve, especially the most vulnerable remote communities. I urge the OHA's Health Care Market Oversight program to conduct a thorough assessment of the proposed merger's impact on rural Oregon communities and to ensure that decisions prioritize maintaining, if not enhancing, current levels of pharmacy care access.

August 23, 2023

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that the well-being of our state's residents will be at the forefront of your deliberations.

Warm regards,

Nic

Nicolas Powers, MBA, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer

Winding Waters Clinic

a non-profit community health center

## About HCMO

The Health Care Market Oversight program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support statewide goals related to cost, equity, access, and quality. For more info, you can connect with HCMO staff:



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