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Bipartisan Coalition of Attorneys General Secures Over \$10 Billion in Opioid Funds from CVS and Walgreens Brings Total Recoveries from Drug Industry to More than \$50 Billion

Lincoln- Attorney General Peterson announced today that he has finalized agreements with CVS and Walgreens to bring the national amount from investigations and litigation against the pharmaceutical industry for its role in the opioid crisis to more than \$50 billion. Under today's agreements, CVS will pay \$5 billion, and Walgreens will pay \$5.7 billion, totaling \$10.7 billion. Nebraska's share of those funds is just over \$41 million.

In addition to the financial settlement, CVS and Walgreens, <u>along with Walmart earlier</u>, have agreed to court-ordered injunctive relief that requires the pharmacies to monitor, report, and share data about suspicious activity related to opioid prescriptions. This court-ordered injunctive relief will help ensure a crisis like this does not happen again.

The terms of this agreement will now go to the states for their review. Each state will have until the end of 2022 to join, after which the Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS agreements will go to local governments around the country for sign-on during the first quarter of 2023. Nebraska intends to join the agreement. Nearly all of the settlement funds must be used to remediate the opioid crisis, including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services.

The payments are structured to ensure critical support in early years as well as sustained resources over time. Most of Walmart's amount will be paid during the first year; CVS's payments will be spread over 10 years; Walgreens' payments will be spread over 15 years. If there is sufficient sign-on, payments will begin during the second half of 2023.

The negotiations have been led by Attorneys General from North Carolina, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Texas.

Suzanne Gage Director of Communications Nebraska Attorney General Office: 402.471.2656

Mobile: 402.560.3518

Suzanne.gage@nebraska.gov





