



Attorney General Doug Peterson

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2022

Attorney General Peterson Announces \$3.1 Billion Settlement with Walmart over Opioid Epidemic Allegations

Lincoln - Attorney General Doug Peterson announced today a settlement with Walmart to resolve allegations that the company contributed to the opioid addiction crisis by failing to appropriately oversee the dispensing of opioids at its stores. The settlement will provide more than \$3 billion nationally with more than \$11 million to Nebraska's Opioid Recovery Fund and participating cities and counties throughout Nebraska. In October, states confirmed that settlement negotiations were also well underway with Walgreens and CVS. Nebraska and other states together with local governments continue their efforts to achieve final settlement with both CVS and Walgreens. Although Walmart filled significantly fewer prescriptions for opioids than CVS or Walgreens, since 2018 Walmart has been the most proactive in trying to monitor and control prescription opioid diversion attempted through its pharmacies.

"We recognize that to the families who have lost a loved one caused by an opioid addiction that started with a pain prescription, these settlements can provide little solace," said Attorney General Doug Peterson. "Our hope, however, is that these funds can help support strong opioid addiction treatment programs throughout our state so that we can significantly reduce opioid use disorder in Nebraska."

The parties are optimistic that the settlement will gain support of the required 43 states by the end of 2022, allowing local governments to join the deal during the first quarter of 2023. In addition to Nebraska, Attorneys General from North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Tennessee, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, California, Louisiana, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Texas have served as the lead negotiators on this settlement with Walmart.

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