



Colorado Governor Jared Polis; Attorney General Phil Weiser;  
Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer; Attorney General Dana Nessel;  
Minnesota Governor Tim Walz; Attorney General Keith Ellison;  
New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham; Attorney General Raúl Torrez;  
New York Governor Kathy Hochul; Attorney General Letitia James;  
Oregon Governor Tina Kotek; Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum;  
Washington Governor Jay Inslee; Attorney General Bob Ferguson;

**Re: States must hold Walgreens accountable and cut ties**

On behalf of UltraViolet's more than one million members, we thank you for your leadership in protecting and advancing reproductive healthcare.

In light of Walgreen's recent refusal to fill mifepristone prescriptions in several states, we need leaders like you to hold them accountable and push for increased access. We write today to urge you to take swift action in response to this healthcare crisis by following Governor Gavin Newsom's lead. **We urge you to cut your state's ties with Walgreens in response to the pharmacy chain's discriminatory policy of refusing to dispense the abortion medication mifepristone.** This may include canceling contracts with Walgreens, removing their stores from state-run healthcare, or requiring government employees to stop purchasing supplies from Walgreens.

As you know, mifepristone has a long track record of scientific study and safety. It has been approved by the FDA for more than twenty years as part of a non-invasive regimen to end an early pregnancy. Mifepristone stops pregnancy growth by blocking the hormone progesterone. It is combined with a dose of Misoprostol. This safe, effective, evidence-based regimen has a 95% success rate. Less than 0.5% of patients experience serious complications.<sup>1</sup> The same medications have been available in France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom since the late 1980s and early 1990s, providing a history of decades of safe use.<sup>2</sup> A comprehensive report from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) in 2018 further confirmed its safety.<sup>3</sup> Mifepristone is also FDA-approved to be used to safely treat other medical conditions like Cushing's syndrome patients, fibroids, and hyperglycemia.<sup>4</sup>

It is immensely troubling that one of the biggest pharmacies in the United States would reject scientific research and healthcare access in favor of political pandering. By refusing to dispense mifepristone, Walgreens is limiting access to safe, proven and essential reproductive healthcare. Walgreens is also undermining the trust and efficacy of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency whose work is vital to the safety of all foods and medications

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<sup>1</sup> [Medication Abortion | Guttmacher Institute.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Mifepristone for Early Medical Abortion: Experiences in France, Great Britain and Sweden | Guttmacher Institute.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States | The National Academies Press](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Mifepristone for management of Cushing's syndrome.](#)

our families and communities rely on. It is unacceptable for a private corporation that provides essential healthcare to undermine a critical safety-related government agency, especially in an ongoing global pandemic.

As a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equity, we are deeply concerned about the impact of this policy on the health and well-being of people in your state. Medication abortion care is a vital resource for those disproportionately impacted by the recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. This includes Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; LGBTQ+ people; disabled people; working class and poor communities; rural communities; immigrants; non-English speakers; and more. Furthermore, lack of access to the brands of mifepristone, such as Mifeprex, that are used for abortion could place an additional burden on chronically ill people who rely on other brands of mifepristone, such as Korlym, to treat their medical conditions.

We urge you to take immediate steps to publicly cut any ties your state has with Walgreens. Each day that Walgreens fails to provide access to reproductive healthcare brings additional harms to pregnant people who deserve to make their own choices about their health. It is a moral imperative that you use your power and platform to protect access to reproductive healthcare and to hold corporations accountable for their actions.

**We would like to request a meeting with you and your team to discuss this urgent matter and share our expertise.** It is crucial that we discuss the implications of these developments and explore potential solutions that prioritize the health and well-being of pregnant people. Please let us know when you are available to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to you taking swift action to address this threat to public health.

Sincerely,

Shaunna Thomas  
Executive Director  
UltraViolet  
[WeAreUltraViolet.org](http://WeAreUltraViolet.org)