



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE  
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February 5, 2014

**Larry Merlo**

President and Chief Executive Officer, CVS Caremark

**Helena Foulkes**

President, CVS/Pharmacy  
CVS Caremark Corporation  
One CVS Drive  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

Dear Mr. Merlo and Ms. Foulkes:

The American Association for Respiratory Care wanted to be among the first to congratulate you on your courageous decision to eliminate tobacco from your stores.

Our members, respiratory therapists who treat people with lung problems, see this as a major step forward in your commitment to the health and wellness of all. It's obviously a considerable business decision for you and we think you are making the right one – strongly positioning your core business of health as your #1 priority.

Thank you for your bold actions. It is not going unnoticed in this year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Surgeon General's report and it gets a standing ovation from our organization and the 150,000 respiratory therapists in this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Gaebler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**George Gaebler, RRT**

President  
American Association for Respiratory Care