



Ms. Rosalind Brewer
Chief Executive Officer
Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.
108 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, IL 60016

Dear Ms. Brewer,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the 50,000 churches and congregations that make up the Southern Baptist Convention. Within these churches are numerous medical professionals dedicated to the work God has called them to, including pharmacists who work for your company. My letter today centers on these individuals and, specifically, the protection of their consciences.

After the recent Food & Drug Administration announcement that the drug Mifepri-stone will now be allowed to be distributed by local pharmacies, Walgreens immediately signaled plans to seek certification in the states where it is legal to do so. While presented as a mere business decision, this is obviously a far more complex matter.

As you are aware, this drug has deadly consequences for preborn children and can have harmful side effects for mothers. It has long been the view that pharmacies exist to provide medication that improves health and extends life. Dispensing these pills does the exact opposite. Based on that fact alone, I would urge you to not follow through with this.

If that is not an option, it is precisely because of that deadly result for preborn children that I am asking you to respect, and reasonably accommodate, the consciences of your pharmacists—Baptists and other people of faith—who are opposed to filling a prescription for a customer seeking an abortion because of our deeply held beliefs about the value and dignity of the preborn and their mothers. Scripture tells us that each person is made in the image of God and bestowed with immeasurable worth, including the most vulnerable in their mother's womb.



I understand what I am asking will likely affect your current religious accommodation policy for employees, especially pharmacists. However, given the resources of your organization and the significant role you play in the communities you serve, I do not believe this is an unreasonable request on behalf of workers who are integral to your operations. Enhancing your current policies would demonstrate that Walgreens respects deeply held beliefs about the preciousness of life and honors individual consciences that believe abortion is a moral evil. This would be a welcome development in a corporate world often solely driven by maximizing profits, with little regard for the personal views of employees. Moreover, this would signal Walgreens is a company where individuals can hold different views about an important matter while continuing to work alongside one another, a marked contrast to our current culture of division and disdain.

As the ethics and policy arm of the largest Protestant denomination in our country, we stand ready to offer any guidance or advice you may need to alter your current policy and implement it before the consciences of those employed on the front lines in your pharmacies are harmed.

Respectfully,

Frederick Brent Leatherwood
President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission