

United States Senate

Mr. Larry J. Merlo
President and Chief Executive Officer
CVS Health
One CVS Drive
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

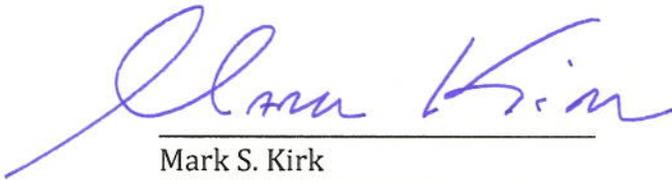
October 27, 2015

Dear Mr. Merlo:

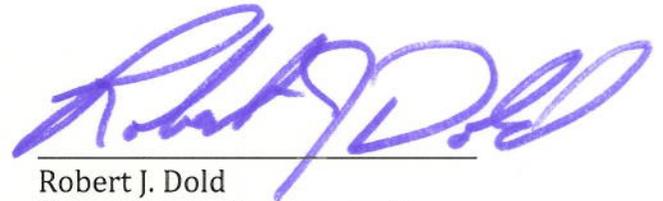
In the Chicago metropolitan region, heroin takes a life every three days. Between 2012 and October 2014, 390 heroin-related deaths were reported in Chicago's collar counties. Over-prescription and the addictive nature of opioids is fueling addiction rates throughout the state. Families and survivors agree that expanded access to the lifesaving medication naloxone could have saved their friends, family members, and loved ones from this devastating drug. When injected intravenously, intramuscularly, or subcutaneously, naloxone can reverse the potentially fatal effects of opiate overdose. We applaud the decision made by CVS to make naloxone available over the counter in 20 states, and urge you to make Illinois one of them.

It is our understanding that CVS is able to expand access by asking prescribers to write "standing orders," or through collaborative practice agreements that permit pharmacies to dispense naloxone as an over the counter medication. Illinois, a state with statute authorizing standing orders specifically for naloxone, and a state that sees far too many lives cut short by heroin, is an excellent candidate that would significantly benefit from this change. Combatting heroin abuse will require a multifaceted approach, and over the counter naloxone should be part of that response.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Kirk
United States Senator



Robert J. Dold
United States Representative