



July 24, 2018

Stefano Pessana – CEO
Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.
108 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

RE: Nicole Arteaga, Peoria, AZ

Dear Mr. Pessana,

NOW is a multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our priorities are winning economic equality and the ERA; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom, and other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting bigotry against the LGBTQIA community; and ending violence against women. The Central Phoenix Inez Casiano chapter serves the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The media has been replete with the news that a pharmacist at a Peoria store refused to fill the prescription of a woman who had a miscarriage and who chose the medication over the more invasive procedure for her health. Arizona does have a law that allows pharmacists to opt out of providing services relating to abortion, A.R.S. §36-215). But the law also provides that the pharmacist has to return the prescription to allow the person to get the necessary service in a timely fashion at that location or any other. Allegedly your store policy requires that the pharmacist turn the prescription over to another person in that store who will follow the doctor's orders and give appropriate customer service. This did not happen as the customer left and filled the prescription at a different Walgreens. It has not been reported whether the offending pharmacist is still employed at Walgreens.

According to Arteaga, the pharmacist stated his refusal in front of other customers and children thus violating her medical privacy rights. Further, she was already suffering from the loss of this wanted pregnancy and his behavior further compounded her pain. We would like written assurance that this incident will not happen again, that your policies will so reflect, and that Ms. Arteaga receive a suitable remedy. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dianne Post, Attorney

Chapter Secretary