

**No. R-336. House concurrent resolution congratulates CVS Caremark for the decision to terminate the sale of all tobacco products, including cigarettes.**

(H.C.R.241)

Offered by: Representatives Koch of Barre Town, Batchelor of Derby, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, French of Randolph, Goodwin of Weston, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Komline of Dorset, Krowinski of Burlington, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lippert of Hinesburg, Marek of Newfane, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Pearce of Richford, Quimby of Concord, Ralston of Middlebury, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Wizowaty of Burlington, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, for generations, American consumers have purchased cigarettes and other tobacco products at pharmacies, and

Whereas, since the U.S. Surgeon General issued his 1964 report on the dangers of smoking, the percentage of American adults who smoke has declined sharply, but far too many still die each year due to smoking, and

Whereas, Woonsocket, Rhode Island-based CVS Caremark is the operator of more than 7,600 pharmacies and 800 MinuteClinic locations, and

Whereas, CVS Caremark Chief Medical Officer Dr. Troyen A. Brennan has written in a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of “the paradox of cigarette sales in pharmacies” especially as pharmacies assume an expanded role in the health care system, and

Whereas, CVS Caremark President and CEO Larry J. Merlo, in a press release dated February 5, 2014, stated “the sale of tobacco products is inconsistent with our purpose” as a company in the business “to help people on their path to better health,” and

Whereas, with these thoughts in mind, Larry Merlo announced that CVS pharmacies would end the sale of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, by October 1, 2014, and

Whereas, although CVS Caremark estimates that the decision will cost the company \$2 billion in annual revenues, Larry Merlo described this historic decision as “the right thing for us to do for our customers and our company,” and

Whereas, CVS Caremark noted this unusual retailing decision, “is consistent with the positions taken by the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, and the American Pharmacists Association,” and

Whereas, the elimination of tobacco product sales at CVS pharmacies will start in the spring, and the company expects to provide smoking cessation information at its pharmacies, MinuteClinics, and online, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates CVS Caremark for the decision to terminate the sale of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to CVS Caremark President and CEO Larry Merlo.