



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

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February 24, 2021

Stefano Pessina
CEO
Walgreens
200 Wilmot Rd. MS #2002
Deerfield, IL 60015

Dear Mr. Pessina:

As a physician and public health expert, I have been aggressively advocating for more vaccines in my district. Specifically, I have been working to ensure that the underserved areas do not get left behind as retail pharmacies expand the number of locations offering vaccines, so I was pleased to learn that Walgreens has a number of vaccination sites in underserved areas of my district that have been particularly hard hit by this pandemic.

I understand that you will be expanding the number of Walgreens locations that offer vaccinations as supply increases in the coming months. As you consider your expansion plan, I urge you to prioritize locations in the hardest hit, highest risk underserved communities in California's 36th district in eastern Riverside County.

Because retail pharmacies are located in every community, they can play a pivotal role in getting the vaccine into the arms of the individuals in communities that have been disproportionately overburdened with infections and death by COVID-19. They can also help disseminate important vaccine information and help patients overcome vaccine hesitancy – in doing so they can significantly contribute to saving lives and ending the pandemic.

We have a moral responsibility to make sure that we do not leave people behind simply because they lack resources or live in certain zip codes. I appreciate that you have included underserved areas of my district in your existing list of pharmacies offering the vaccine; as you expand the number of sites in the coming weeks, I urge you to continue to prioritize hard-hit, medically underserved communities like those in California's 36th district.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that these communities are prioritized as you develop your plans for future vaccination sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raul Ruiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raul" and last name "Ruiz" clearly distinguishable.

Raul Ruiz, M.D.