



## Promoting and Protecting Public Health

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Midtown Campus, 1111 South 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68105

May 23, 2016

The Honorable Marlene H. Dortch  
c/o Commissioner's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In re Petition For Declaratory Ruling and Waiver  
Filed by Kohll's Pharmacy & Homecare Inc.  
CG Docket No. 02-278**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I have been employed by the Douglas County Health Department as its Director since 2002 and I'm a scientific reviewer for the American Public Health Association. My responsibilities include bringing hospital systems and local organizations around the table to develop a community health impact plan to address local health priorities through collective impact.

In the course of my duties, I make certain there is flu vaccine available and easily accessible for all residents throughout Douglas County and assist through the state of Nebraska. Hospitals throughout the state and nation provide treatment to countless patients who have been stricken with Influenza (commonly referred to as "the flu"). The majority of persons infected with the flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks. However, some people may develop more severe complications (such as pneumonia) and some people may die as result of catching the flu.

In my professional opinion, it is beneficial for pharmacies such as Kohll's to promote the availability of flu vaccines to private employers. I understand that Kohll's sent several thousand faxes to human resource executives for the purpose of promoting the availability of flu vaccines. There are obvious health benefits with regard to flu vaccinations and despite the alleged inconvenience of printing out facsimiles, in my professional opinion it is better to inform large and small businesses of the availability of flu vaccinations. In particular, the amount of paper and/or toner used to print-out facsimiles does not compare the tremendous amount of time and money lost to employers when employees are out sick with the flu. Further, unvaccinated adults draw away resources from hospitals because hospitals are required to treat an illness which could have been prevented with a timely vaccination. Millions of dollars every year are diverted by hospitals to treating patients with the flu. In my opinion, Kohll's undertook a public duty by informing business of the importance of immunizing employees.

For the reasons set forth above, I support Kohll's Petition and request for Waiver because in the balance of the equities, Kohll's should not be punished for attempting to educate human resources managers about the need to obtain flu vaccinations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adi M. Pour".

Adi M. Pour, Ph. D.  
Health Director