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**PRESS RELEASE** 

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FORWARD LATINO & WALGREENS COLLABORATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY

ACROSS NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF STORES.

FORWARD LATINO CALLS ON KROGER & CVS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO VACCINATING

UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

**Franklin, WI:** Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization with members in 29 states and Walgreens, a retail leader with over 9,000 stores across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have collaborated to ensure COVID-19 vaccine equity throughout the Walgreens network of stores. Walgreens, as a participant in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Retail Pharmacy program, is providing COVID-19 vaccinations in it stores nationwide.

Darryl Morin, Forward Latino National President stated "We greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone at Walgreens as it is only in working together, that we can defeat the pandemic, improve public health and restore a sense of normalcy to our daily lives. During the implementation of the Walgreens COVID-19 Vaccination Program, Forward Latino identified issues that could serve as barriers to individuals unable to attain a drivers license or state ID, including many or our nation's elderly, as well as immigrant and homeless populations. I wish to commend the leadership at Walgreens for quickly acknowledging our findings and immediately removing these barriers. The result will be more people getting vaccinated in a shorter period of time which benefits us all."

Forward Latino continues to receive calls regarding the vaccination program at Kroger (Pick 'n Save) and CVS Pharmacy store vaccination sites and has validated these concerns. Darryl Morin added "We call on these retailers to address equity issues in their vaccination programs and to bring them into compliance with the CDC's COVID-19 Federal Retail Pharmacy Program and guidance issued by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration. Forward Latino is ready to work with these retailers to ensure equity in vaccine distribution through their store networks as well."

## **About Forward Latino:**

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream. Forward Latino fulfills its mission through advocacy, civic engagement, education and service delivery. Forward Latino currently has members in 29 states. Learn more at <a href="https://www.forwardlatino.org">www.forwardlatino.org</a>.

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