

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PHARMACIES, OPIOID DISTRIBUTORS PRIORITIZE PROFITS OVER PEOPLE IN REPLY TO LANDMARK  
CHEROKEE NATION LAWSUIT**

*McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, CVS Health, Walgreens and Wal-Mart ask an Oklahoma federal judge to enjoin a lawsuit filed by Cherokee Nation in Cherokee Tribal Court*

**TAHLEQUAH, Oklahoma**— Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree released the following statement today in response to McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., AmerisourceBergen, CVS Health, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc., and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., filing a complaint in federal court asking for an injunction to prevent the Cherokee Nation’s recent lawsuit against them from proceeding in tribal court. In April, the Cherokee Nation sued the pharmacies and opioid distributors in Cherokee Nation tribal court, charging them with failing to prevent the flow of illegally prescribed opioids to men, women and children in the Cherokee Nation.

“The defendants have dumped massive quantities of lethal opioids on the Cherokee nation, putting profits over people. We will not be deterred in our quest for justice for the children and families that have been devastated by their actions,” **said Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree.** “The defendants have a legal responsibility to make sure these powerful, highly addictive drugs get into the hands of only the people who need them.”

General Hembree also said, “the defendants' filing today is not just the usual attempt to delay and avoid justice, it's an attack on the very sovereignty of our nation and our ability to protect our families from the illegal activities of these companies that are causing extraordinary harm and suffering to our people.”

The Cherokee Nation’s lawsuit is the first of its kind filed in the United States, as it is the first Attorney General civil case seeking to hold distributors and retailers responsible for their roles in perpetuating the opioid crisis. The Cherokee Nation is represented by Attorney General Todd Hembree and special counsel Richard Fields of Fields PLLC and Boies Schiller Flexner partners Steve Zack and William Ohlemeyer.

The full complaint, the initial press release, and other related news can be found here:

<http://www.anadisgoi.com/images/archive/1598/Petition%204-20-17.pdf>.

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