

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 11, 2024

## Comptroller Nieshalla Holds NYC Comptroller Accountable

STATEHOUSE – New York City Comptroller Brad Lander sent letters demanding the CEOs of Walmart, Costco, Kroger and other large retailers immediately start dispensing the abortion drug, Mifepristone, in every state where the drug is legal in order to maximize sales and long-term shareholder value.

Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla sees this as a faulty fiduciary duty argument.

"If we take this reasoning of the NYC Comptroller to its natural conclusion, there may be short-term gain from drug sales, but there would be lifetimes of loss in the decreased sales of diapers, formula, food, clothing, school supplies and on and on," said Comptroller Nieshalla.

NYC Comptroller Lander, who serves as the custodian and trustee of \$1.32 billion in total pension assets invested in these retail corporations, threatened divestment if the drug was not made available for sale.

"This pressure campaign by the NYC Comptroller disregards all the factors companies consider when deciding whether to sell a particular product," states Comptroller Nieshalla. "The leaders of Albertsons, Kroger, McKesson, Costco and Walmart should determine what goods best serve their customer base and shareholders (free markets) without coercion from an elected official."

Costco recently conveyed they had no material demand for the abortion drug.

Comptroller Nieshalla, along with 15 other state financial officers, sent a letter to each of the pharmaceutical leaders urging support to disregard the NYC Comptroller's recent demands, which prioritize political advocacy over fiduciary duty.

###

Elise M. Nieshalla is the <u>Indiana State Comptroller</u>, fulfilling the duties of the Constitutional Office of State Auditor. Comptroller Nieshalla is committed to serving our state and local



governments by upholding the highest standards of fiscal responsibility in the provision of accurate accounting and reporting of state funds, disbursement of tax revenues to local units of government, payment of Indiana's employees and vendors, administration of the state's deferred compensation plan and delivering financial information through the <u>Indiana Transparency</u> Portal.

Interested in more information about the Comptroller's Office? Join us online to always be in the know by following Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter @Comp\_Nieshalla.

Media Contact: Emily Boesen <u>eboesen@comptroller.in.gov</u>