



## Aetna (Meritain Health)

Locations: Connecticut (HQ)

Industries: Health Care Equipment and Services

RISK LEVEL:



Medium Risk

### DESCRIPTION:

Aetna often yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Aetna occasionally embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues at times. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

### Corporate Weaponization

**Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries.** Lower Risk

*Aetna has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs (1).*

**Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs.** Lower Risk

*Aetna does not discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs (1).*

**Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are ideological in nature.** Medium Risk

*Aetna protects its employees against viewpoint discrimination (1). Whistleblowers allege that CVS, Aetna's parent company, has mandatory "antiracism" training programs that feature core tenets of critical race theory (2)(3)(4).*

### Corporate Governance and Public Policy

**Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.** Medium Risk

*Aetna's parent company, CVS, also advocates for the Equality Act and transgender participation in girls' sports (1)(2). Furthermore, CVS has committed to multiple acts of engagement for the LGBTQ community (3). The company signed an open letter opposing a Florida bill that would prevent teaching gender identity and sexual orientation in schools to kids in K-3rd grade (4). Aetna's parent*

company, CVS Health, scored a 100 out of 100 on the 2023-2024 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group (5)(6).

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**Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk**

Aetna's parent company has a perfect score on the HRC's 2022 Corporate Equality Index. This score indicates the company covers the cost of "medically necessary transition-related care" for its employees and their children (1)(2). Aetna covers abortion-related travel expenses for employees (3). Its parent company, CVS Health, is a corporate sponsor of the HRC (4). Aetna also sells mifepristone, which is used to terminate early pregnancies (5). The company is a founding corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (6).

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**Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business purposes. High Risk**

CVS, the parent company, is responsible for all of Aetna's corporate PAC giving. CVS Health has donated to the Equality PAC but has not lobbied for ideological purposes (1)(2)(3).

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