

Issue 2: The Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue: *Risky. Costly. Unworkable.*



Should Ohio's state agencies be forced to follow Issue 2, a deceptive and vaguely-worded ballot issue that would impose unworkable contracting requirements for state prescription drug purchases based on prices paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)?

No.

Ohio health care experts, including three former Ohio Medicaid Directors, warn that Issue 2 would actually increase prescription drug costs and reduce patient access to medicines. They have lined up with Ohio medical professionals, patient advocates, military veterans' organizations and business and labor groups to urge Ohioans to **defeat Issue 2** on the November 7, 2017 statewide ballot.

Trusted policy experts from Democratic and Republican administrations at state and federal levels join Ohio organizations representing more than 30,000 doctors, nurses and pharmacists to oppose this misleading and risky proposal because:

1. It is unworkable and will likely lead to more bureaucracy, red tape and lawsuits.
2. It will do nothing to lower drug costs for the seven million Ohioans—that's nearly two out of every three individuals—who are privately insured, have employer coverage, are on Medicare or otherwise do not obtain their medicines through state programs. They could even see their prescription drug costs go up if this ballot issue becomes law.
3. It won't lower drug costs for the state. If passed, Issue 2 could invalidate the many drug discount agreements Ohio already has in place with pharmaceutical companies for Medicaid and other state programs—potentially increasing state prescription drug costs by tens of millions of dollars annually.
4. It threatens to reduce patient access to medicines.
5. It puts current VA discounts at risk, and military veterans who get their prescriptions through the VA face the prospect of potential cost increases.
6. Another provision would give Issue 2's four named co-sponsors an unprecedented right to intervene—at taxpayer expense—in any post-election legal challenges that may be filed against the initiative or its implementation.
7. It is nearly identical to a proposal that was voted down in California last year. Known as "Prop 61," the California ballot issue was opposed by every major newspaper in the state—conservative, moderate and progressive alike.
8. It is being proposed by a tax-exempt, billion-dollar organization that makes nearly 80 percent of its revenues from selling prescription drugs.

Get the Facts on Issue 2 at www.NoOnIssue2.org

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Who Opposes the Rx Ballot Issue?

Medical providers and health advocacy groups

American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Ohio
Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati
The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
Butler County Medical Society
Caracole, Inc.
The Center for Health Affairs
Columbus Medical Association
Equitas Health
Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association
Healing Hearts of Central Ohio
Mended Hearts
Mental Health America of Franklin County
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio
National Community Pharmacists Association
Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Ohio Children's Hospital Association
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services
Providers
Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
Ohio Hospital Association
Ohio Nurses Association
Ohio Ophthalmological Society
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Ohio Pharmacists Association
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association
Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association
Ohio Society for Health System Pharmacists
Ohio State Medical Association
Prevention Action Alliance

Veterans groups and leaders

AMVETS Department of Ohio
The American Legion, Department of Ohio
Catholic War Veterans, Department of Ohio
Concerned Veterans of America
Department of Ohio Marine Corps League
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Military Officers Association of America, Ohio Post 34
Jewish War Veterans, Department of Ohio
Korean War Veterans Association, Department of Ohio
Military Officers Association of America, Ohio Council of Chapters
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Ohio
Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association
Ohio National Guard Association
Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commissioners
Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers
The Retired Enlisted Association
VFW, Department of Ohio
Tom Moe, Colonel, USAF, Retired
Victor Wilson, Veterans Advocate

Bioscience groups

BioOhio
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Community groups

Columbus Branch – NAACP
Youngstown-Warren Black Caucus

Faith groups

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Columbus and Vicinity
Word of Life Ministry Christian Center of Cincinnati

Retirees groups

PERI, Public Employee Retirees, Inc.

Business and labor groups

ACT Ohio – Ohio's Affiliated Construction Trades
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Darke County Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Employers Health Purchasing Corporation
Greater Akron Chamber
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster/Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce
Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business Ohio
Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Federation of Teachers
Ohio Grocers Association
Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Ohio State Grange
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
The Presidents' Council – Business Chamber
Toledo Area Small Business Association
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Westerville Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce

Emergency management & safety groups

Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Public policy groups

Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio
Ohio Federation of Republican Women

What Others Are Saying ...

The Columbus Dispatch

“The drug initiative is loaded with unknown costs, consequences and potential harms for some of Ohio’s most vulnerable residents.” 7/23/17

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

“This proposal could lead to cost shifting to private payers, including employers, resulting in higher health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs.” (May 2017)

Akron Beacon Journal

“...this measure features too many flaws...the fallout likely would not be friendly to many consumers.” 8/26/17

“With passage, expect lawsuits...with taxpayers picking up their attorney fees.” 8/26/17

The American Legion, Department of Ohio

“This flawed and unworkable proposal could actually increase prescription drug costs and reduce prescription drug availability for veterans, all while costing taxpayers millions more in state bureaucracy, red tape and lawsuits.” (May 2017)

THE PLAIN DEALER

“Passing a statute that is impractical, litigation-prone and that’s likely to do little to address the problem of overpriced drugs isn’t the answer. That’s why Issue 2 is a problem, not a cure.” 9/15/17

Ohio Children’s Hospital Association

“We strongly oppose any measure that would negatively impact our ability to deliver care—including necessary medication—to children when they need it the most—and Issue 2 threatens to do just that.” (August 2017)