



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Dale Butland, 614-783-5833

press@DeceptiveRxIssue.com

OPPONENTS OF DRUG BALLOT ISSUE LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

“Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue” Attracts Broad-based Coalition

Columbus, OH – [Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue](#) kicked off its campaign today by announcing that a diverse and broad-based coalition of Ohio organizations and associations will oppose and seek to defeat the deceptively worded “Ohio Drug Price Relief Act.” The proposal (technically called an “initiated statute”) will be on the November 2017 ballot.

Authored and promoted by controversial California activist Michael Weinstein, the initiative would prohibit Ohio’s state government from paying more for prescription drugs than the lowest price paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Another provision would give the ballot issue’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.

A virtually identical version of this ballot issue, called “Proposition 61,” was soundly defeated in California last year (53%—47%), and was also opposed by every major newspaper in the state.

Said Coalition Campaign Manager Curt Steiner:

“While everyone agrees that Ohioans need access to affordable medicines, this deceptive and vaguely worded initiative won’t fix the problem or do what it promises. In fact, experts who have studied the proposal—including three former Ohio Medicaid Directors and a former state Budget Director—say it’s not only unworkable, but could actually *increase* prescription drug costs for the majority of Ohioans and reduce patient access to needed medications. The so-called Drug Price Relief Act is a Trojan Horse we can’t afford to let into our state.”

Added Campaign Communications Director Dale Butland:

“That’s why more than 30 Ohio organizations and associations so far—representing doctors, nurses, patients, veterans, organized labor and the business community—have joined together to oppose this misguided ballot initiative. Starting today, we’ll be supplementing our voter education efforts with a robust paid media campaign that will run on broadcast and cable TV all across the state, as well as on mobile and digital platforms. We urge all Ohioans to get the facts at www.DeceptiveRxIssue.org. Once voters know the truth, we’re confident they will give this ballot issue the defeat it so richly deserves.”

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Expert analyses of the proposal, a list of coalition members, and a viewable version of the TV spot are available on the campaign’s website at www.DeceptiveRxIssue.org.

For media: A **Media Resource Page** is available at <http://bit.ly/2qZAYkd> with the following resources:

- “A Prescription for Disaster” :30 TV spot (broadcast quality downloadable file)
- High resolution still photos of the individuals featured in the TV spot
- Broadcast quality B-roll video and still shots inside a pharmacy
- Downloadable pdf documents of expert analyses
- More resources will be added as they become available

**Ohio organizations & individuals opposed to the November 2017
statewide drug purchase ballot issue, or so-called “Drug Price Relief Act”**

May 22, 2017

Medical providers and health advocacy groups

Ohio Nurses Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Ohio Osteopathic Association
American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Ohio
Ohio Pharmacists Association
Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association
Ohio Ophthalmological Society
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio
Mental Health America of Franklin County
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Drug Free Action Alliance
Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association
Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness
Equitas Health

Veterans groups and leaders

The American Legion, Department of Ohio
Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commissioners
Jewish War Veterans, Department of Ohio
Catholic War Veterans, Department of Ohio
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Ohio
Military Officers Association of America, Ohio Council of Chapters
Korean War Veterans Association, Department of Ohio
Ohio National Guard Association
Concerned Veterans of America
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tom Moe, Colonel, USAF, Retired
Victor Wilson, Veterans Advocate

Business and labor groups

Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Manufacturers' Association
ACT Ohio – Ohio's Affiliated Construction Trades
Ohio State Grange
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

Bioscience groups

BioOhio
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Emergency management & safety groups

Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Faith groups

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Columbus and Vicinity