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Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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STATEMENT FROM DALE BUTLAND ON OHIO OBM REPORT ON ISSUE 2

Columbus, OH – As required by law, Ohio Budget Director Timothy Keen has filed a [fiscal analysis](#) with the Ohio Secretary of State regarding State Issue 2 on this November’s statewide ballot.

The following statement about the analysis is attributable to Dale Butland, Communications Director, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue.

“The Ohio Budget Director’s analysis confirms that Issue 2 is fundamentally flawed and, if passed by voters, would not achieve the taxpayer savings repeatedly claimed by Issue 2 sponsors.

“As the analysis confirms, Issue 2 is unworkable because its core requirement — that the state pay no more for drugs than the lowest price paid by the federal Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) — can’t be implemented because final prices negotiated by the VA with drug makers are confidential and not publicly available.

“The Ohio Budget Director reports that savings from Issue 2 are ‘unlikely’ in Ohio’s largest impacted program, Medicaid, which serves 3.1 million Ohioans and accounts for the lion’s share of state drug purchases. The OBM analysis points out that due to federal mandates and further negotiations at the state level, ‘Medicaid programs across the country are paying prices for prescription drugs that may already be as low or lower on average than what the VA pays.’

“The OBM analysis also notes that, unlike the VA, Ohio distributes drugs through retail pharmacies, and that Issue 2 fails to account for dispensing fees that need to be paid to pharmacies.

“As our Vote No Coalition has said from the beginning of our campaign this spring, when something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Issue 2 is simplistic, unworkable and built on a flawed foundation. It therefore can’t and won’t achieve anything remotely close to the wild savings estimates touted by Issue 2 proponents. Further, Issue 2 could very well increase costs for a majority of Ohio consumers, while reducing access to needed medicines for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

“The official OBM analysis confirms that Issue 2 is too risky, too costly, and unworkable. That’s why more than 80 Ohio organizations representing doctors, nurses, pharmacists, hospitals and so many others who care about the health and well-being of Ohioans are opposing Issue 2, and it’s why Issue 2 is opposed by the editorial pages of every daily newspaper in Ohio that has expressed a formal position.”