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“NO ON ISSUE 2” COALITION GROWS TO 68 ORGANIZATIONS

Ohio Children’s Hospital Association, AMVETS, and Ohio Retail Merchants latest to join

Columbus, OH – Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue announced today that the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association; the American Veterans, Department of Ohio (AMVETS); and the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants have become the latest organizations to join the burgeoning “No on Issue 2” coalition. The Ohio Children’s Hospital Association represents six member hospitals in Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron and Dayton and serves children from every Ohio county, all 50 states and dozens of foreign countries. AMVETS is a service and charitable organization comprised of military veterans from across the state. The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants represents more than 7,000 members in the state’s retail and wholesale industries.

Sixty-eight organizations—more than double the number that were on board when the coalition was formed on May 1—have now joined the effort to defeat Issue 2 in November.

Said Campaign Communications Director Dale Butland:

“While everyone agrees that Ohioans need access to affordable prescription drugs, experts who have studied this deceptive ballot issue—along with organizations representing business, labor, veterans and over 30,000 Ohio doctors, nurses, pharmacists and hospitals—say Issue 2 would only make things worse by increasing drug costs for a majority of Ohioans and reducing access to needed medicines for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

“Children’s hospitals, which treat large numbers of children whose families rely on Medicaid, are especially concerned about what the passage of Issue 2 would mean for Ohio’s youngest patients who often need drugs not purchased by the VA, whose relatively narrow formulary is designed to treat military veterans. Because Issue 2 lacks any operational guidelines regarding how drugs not on the VA formulary are to be handled, whether the state could continue to purchase those life-saving drugs—and at what price—remain open questions on which the ballot issue is completely silent.

“It’s just one more example of how ill-considered and sloppily worded this ballot issue truly is, as well as the serious problems it could cause. Why Issue 2 proponents never bothered to consult with Ohio’s health care policy experts or medical professionals before they put their proposal on the ballot is a mystery. What’s not a mystery is why so many trusted Ohio voices are now sounding the alarm. Voters should get the facts and not be hoodwinked into passing something that may sound good, but in reality, would only backfire and end up hurting our state and its people.”

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Paid for by Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue