



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DECEPTIVE DRUG BALLOT INITIATIVE BECOMES “ISSUE 2”**

*“No” coalition grows to 61 organizations*

Columbus, OH – The Ohio Secretary of State’s Office announced today that the so-called “Ohio Drug Price Relief Act” will appear as Issue 2 on the November ballot.

Meanwhile, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue announced that its opposition coalition has doubled in size since the campaign launched on May 23. With the Ohio Farm Bureau, the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice and the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati among the latest to join, the number of “no” coalition partners now stands at 61 organizations, up from roughly 30 when the campaign began.

By contrast, not a single statewide organization has publicly announced its support for passing the ballot initiative.

Said Campaign Communications Director Dale Butland:

“Though the deceptive prescription drug ballot issue will now be known as Issue 2, it is no less misleading or potentially damaging to Ohio and Ohioans than it was before. It is still unworkable. It could still lead to lawsuits, still give the proposal’s sponsors an unprecedented right to intervene in those court actions and still force taxpayers to pay the sponsors’ legal fees whether they win or lose.

“But worst of all, this poorly written proposal won’t save money for the state or lower drug costs for anyone. In fact, every expert who has studied it says it is likely to do the exact opposite: raising drug costs for most Ohioans and reducing access to needed medications for some of our state’s most vulnerable citizens.

“That’s why medical organizations representing well over 30,000 Ohio doctors, nurses, pharmacists and hospitals—along with veterans, farmers, businesspeople, organized labor and many others—are sounding the alarm and urging Ohioans to vote ‘no.’ Issue 2 is a prescription for disaster.”

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