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OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION JOINS OPPOSITION TO Rx BALLOT ISSUE

Steadily growing "vote no" coalition now stands at 50 organizations

Columbus, OH – The Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) is among the latest organizations to officially oppose the so-called "Ohio Drug Price Relief Act." With the recent addition of the OHA and others, the opposition coalition known as Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue has grown to include 50 organizations and associations, while the "yes" side has yet to publicly identify even a single outside organization that supports passing its initiative.

Since launching its campaign on May 23 with roughly 30 organizations and associations, the "vote no" coalition has grown by nearly 60 percent. Among the new organizations signing on since the end of May are the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Ohio; Equitas Health (Ohio's largest HIV/AIDS organization); the Drug Free Action Alliance; Ohio State Grange; the Columbus Branch of the NAACP; the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce; the Department of Ohio Marine Corps League and the Ohio Hematology and Oncology Society. A complete list of coalition members can be accessed at www.deceptiverxissue.org. With the addition of the OHA, virtually all of Ohio's major statewide medical organizations—representing well over 30,000 doctors, nurses, pharmacists and hospitals—have joined the opposition coalition.

Said Campaign Communications Director Dale Butland:

"While everyone agrees that the people of our state need access to affordable prescription drugs, Ohio doctors, nurses, pharmacists, hospitals and other trusted practitioners who work on behalf of patients every single day say the deceptive ballot issue we'll be voting on in November won't fix the problem or do what it promises. In fact, passing the initiative could only make things worse by potentially *increasing* drug costs for the majority of Ohioans and reducing access to needed medications for some of the most vulnerable people in our state. That's why so many experts who have studied the issue are urging Ohioans to vote 'no' and sounding the alarm against this misguided initiative.

"Meanwhile, ballot issue proponents have yet to publicly identify even a single statewide organization that supports their proposal. When a football team is losing by a score of 50-0, its game plan is obviously flawed. And when a ballot proposal is opposed by so many experts and groups representing a broad cross section of Ohioans, it's equally obvious that it's a bad idea."