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OHIO VFW ENLISTS IN FIGHT AGAINST Rx BALLOT ISSUE

Ohio's largest combat veterans organization latest to join opposition coalition

Columbus, OH – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of Ohio, perhaps Ohio's best-known military veterans organization, announced today that it is joining Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue and will work to defeat the so-called "Ohio Drug Price Relief Act," an initiated statute that will appear on the November 2017 ballot.

With the addition of the VFW, [41 organizations](#) have now joined the broad-based coalition opposing the initiative. Ten other Ohio veterans groups, including the American Legion, Department of Ohio; the Ohio National Guard Association and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Ohio are also coalition members, and a former Ohio director of Veterans Affairs, Col. Tom Moe, is currently appearing in a television ad opposing the ballot issue.

Said Erv Yoder, Adjutant, of the VFW Department of Ohio:

"The deceptive ballot issue we'll be voting on in November would hurt military veterans who willingly served and sacrificed for our country. By curtailing or even eliminating many of the discounts the VA currently negotiates with drug manufacturers, this proposal could—in the [words of former VA Secretary Anthony Principi](#)—'result in higher prescription drug co-pays and reduced access to needed medicines for Ohio's 866,000 veterans.' And the VA itself has warned that passing the Ohio ballot issue could potentially increase its drug costs by \$3.8 billion per year. Veterans have already paid a heavy price for their service. The last thing they need now is higher drug costs simply because some California activist had the money necessary to put this risky scheme on the Ohio ballot."

Said Coalition Spokesman Dale Butland:

"We're delighted to welcome the VFW to our large and growing coalition. The more people learn about this deceptive ballot initiative, the less they like it. While all Ohioans need access to affordable medications, this proposal not only won't fix the problem, it will make things worse. That's why organizations representing over 30,000 Ohio doctors, nurses and pharmacists—along with numerous others representing the business, labor, faith and patient advocacy communities—are working to defeat it. By joining them today, the VFW's message is clear: raising what they pay for drugs is no way to thank military veterans for their service."