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Monday August 28, 2017

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AKRON BEACON JOURNAL: ISSUE 2 HAS “TOO MANY FLAWS”

ABJ becomes second major Ohio newspaper to oppose prescription drug ballot issue

Columbus, OH – In a [Sunday, August 27 editorial](#), subtitled “How Not to Corral High Drug Prices,” the *Akron Beacon Journal* became the second major Ohio daily newspaper to oppose the so-called “Ohio Drug Price Relief Act,” which will appear as Issue 2 on the November ballot. *The Columbus Dispatch* announced its opposition last month in a [full-page editorial](#).

Issue 2, said the *Beacon Journal*, “features too many flaws,” including:

- The “impracticality of pegging the state to the VA price” given the “sharp differences in the way the VA and the state systems operate;”
- That Issue 2 “does not cover two-thirds of Ohioans,” who could see their costs go up;
- That Ohio “already realizes a discount comparable to the VA’s reduction,” thanks to the federally mandated discounts and additional rebates Ohio negotiates with drug makers; and
- The expense to taxpayers that is likely to result from the provision “allowing the four petitioners to intervene in any legal challenges—with taxpayers picking up their attorney fees.”

“The crisis in drug pricing,” the editorial concludes, “requires a national solution. The sweep and complexities of purchasing, distribution and other elements are beyond the capacity of any one state to fix.”