

## Issue 2: The Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue: *Risky. Costly. Unworkable.*



Should Ohio's state agencies be forced to follow Issue 2, a deceptive and vaguely-worded ballot issue that would impose unworkable contracting requirements for state prescription drug purchases based on prices paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)?

**No.**

Ohio health care experts, including three former Ohio Medicaid Directors, warn that Issue 2 would actually increase prescription drug costs and reduce patient access to medicines. They have lined up with Ohio medical professionals, patient advocates, military veterans' organizations and business and labor groups to urge Ohioans to **defeat Issue 2** on the November 7, 2017 statewide ballot.

Trusted policy experts from Democratic and Republican administrations at state and federal levels join Ohio organizations representing more than 30,000 doctors, nurses and pharmacists to oppose this misleading and risky proposal because:

1. It is unworkable and will likely lead to more bureaucracy, red tape and lawsuits.
2. It will do nothing to lower drug costs for the seven million Ohioans—that's nearly two out of every three individuals—who are privately insured, have employer coverage, are on Medicare or otherwise do not obtain their medicines through state programs. They could even see their prescription drug costs go up if this ballot issue becomes law.
3. It won't lower drug costs for the state. If passed, Issue 2 could invalidate the many drug discount agreements Ohio already has in place with pharmaceutical companies for Medicaid and other state programs—potentially increasing state prescription drug costs by tens of millions of dollars annually.
4. It threatens to reduce patient access to medicines.
5. It puts current VA discounts at risk, and military veterans who get their prescriptions through the VA face the prospect of potential cost increases.
6. Another provision would give Issue 2's four named co-sponsors an unprecedented right to intervene—at taxpayer expense—in any post-election legal challenges that may be filed against the initiative or its implementation.
7. It is nearly identical to a proposal that was voted down in California last year. Known as "Prop 61," the California ballot issue was opposed by every major newspaper in the state—conservative, moderate and progressive alike.
8. It is being proposed by a tax-exempt, billion-dollar organization that makes nearly 80 percent of its revenues from selling prescription drugs.

Get the Facts on Issue 2 at [www.NoOnIssue2.org](http://www.NoOnIssue2.org)

# Issue 2: The Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue. *Risky. Costly. Unworkable.*



## Who Opposes the Rx Ballot Issue?

### Medical providers and health advocacy groups

American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Ohio  
Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati  
The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio  
Butler County Medical Society  
Caracole, Inc.  
The Center for Health Affairs  
Columbus Medical Association  
Equitas Health  
Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association  
Healing Hearts of Central Ohio  
Mended Hearts  
Mental Health America of Franklin County  
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio  
National Community Pharmacists Association  
Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness  
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities  
Ohio Children's Hospital Association  
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services  
Providers  
Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association  
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society  
Ohio Hospital Association  
Ohio Nurses Association  
Ohio Ophthalmological Society  
Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Ohio Pharmacists Association  
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association  
Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association  
Ohio Society for Health System Pharmacists  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Prevention Action Alliance

### Veterans groups and leaders

AMVETS Department of Ohio  
The American Legion, Department of Ohio  
Catholic War Veterans, Department of Ohio  
Concerned Veterans of America  
Department of Ohio Marine Corps League  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Italian American War Veterans, Ohio Post 34  
Jewish War Veterans, Department of Ohio  
Korean War Veterans Association, Department of Ohio  
Military Officers Association of America, Ohio Council of Chapters  
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Ohio  
Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association  
Ohio National Guard Association  
Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commissioners  
Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
VFW, Department of Ohio  
Tom Moe, Colonel, USAF, Retired  
Victor Wilson, Veterans Advocate

### Bioscience groups

BioOhio  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

### Community groups

Columbus Branch – NAACP

### Faith groups

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Columbus and Vicinity

### Retirees groups

PERI, Public Employee Retirees, Inc.

### Business and labor groups

ACT Ohio – Ohio's Affiliated Construction Trades  
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber  
Columbus Chamber of Commerce  
Darke County Chamber of Commerce  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Employers Health Purchasing Corporation  
Greater Akron Chamber  
Greater Cleveland Partnership  
Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce  
Lancaster/Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce  
Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council  
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Ohio Federation of Teachers  
Ohio Grocers Association  
Ohio Manufacturers' Association  
Ohio State Grange  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America  
The Presidents' Council – Business Chamber  
Toledo Area Small Business Association  
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Westerville Chamber of Commerce  
Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce

### Emergency management & safety groups

Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

### Public policy groups

Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio

## What Others Are Saying ...

### The Columbus Dispatch

“The drug initiative is loaded with unknown costs, consequences and potential harms for some of Ohio’s most vulnerable residents.” 7/23/17

### Ohio Chamber of Commerce

“This proposal could lead to cost shifting to private payers, including employers, resulting in higher health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs.” (May 2017)

### Akron Beacon Journal

“...this measure features too many flaws...the fallout likely would not be friendly to many consumers.” 8/26/17

“With passage, expect lawsuits...with taxpayers picking up their attorney fees.” 8/26/17

### The American Legion, Department of Ohio

“This flawed and unworkable proposal could actually increase prescription drug costs and reduce prescription drug availability for veterans, all while costing taxpayers millions more in state bureaucracy, red tape and lawsuits.” (May 2017)

### THE PLAIN DEALER

“Passing a statute that is impractical, litigation-prone and that’s likely to do little to address the problem of overpriced drugs isn’t the answer. That’s why Issue 2 is a problem, not a cure.” 9/15/17

### Ohio Children’s Hospital Association

“We strongly oppose any measure that would negatively impact our ability to deliver care—including necessary medication—to children when they need it the most—and Issue 2 threatens to do just that.” (August 2017)