

OMA STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION to “OHIO DRUG PRICE RELIEF ACT”

The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association is opposed to the prescription drug purchase ballot issue, to appear on the November 2017 Ohio statewide ballot. The OMA will urge members to vote no on the issue, also called the “Ohio Drug Price Relief Act.”

The OMA believes that if passed, the added government regulation would fail to achieve the goal of lowering prescription drug prices and would instead create expensive red tape and prolonged litigation that will be costly to Ohio taxpayers.

Requiring the State of Ohio to benchmark the purchase price of prescription medication to the lowest price paid by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, is an unworkable plan, according to experts who have examined the proposal.

The ballot issue includes an unprecedented provision which could lead to costly lawsuits paid for by taxpayers. The proposed statute would give four designated sponsors of the initiative special privileges to sue the state over details of the proposal’s implementation and taxpayers would pay for the legal bills, whether the lawsuit was a winner or loser.

As manufacturers, we are concerned with any plan to impose artificial price controls on products. The OMA is concerned that price controls would not stop with medication but would apply to other products purchased by government.

The Ohio ballot issue is a near copy of an initiative on the California statewide ballot in November 2016. The initiative’s flawed design earned the opposition of every major California newspaper and was defeated by voters.

For these reasons, the OMA Board recommends a No vote on this flawed Ohio proposal as broad benefits to Ohioans – and manufacturers specifically – do not exist.

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