



For Immediate Release

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Ohio Chamber Launches Employer Opioid Toolkit

Today, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce launched a free online course *A Dose of Reality for Employers* – a toolkit to help mitigate the risks associated with the Ohio Opioid crisis. The toolkit is available to all Ohio employers at the Ohio Chamber’s website <http://ohiochamber.com/opioid-toolkit/>.

“This free toolkit was developed to help employers manage the risks associated with the crisis that is facing our communities, impacting our businesses, and touching the lives of employees and their families,” explained President & CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Andrew E. Doehrel.

“This will be one more piece to the puzzle of solving our drug crisis in Ohio,” he said.

In 2017 the Ohio Chamber of Commerce convened a task force from our board of directors to explore ways to help Ohio’s employers respond to the opioid problem as it relates to their workplaces. The task force was made up of representatives from member companies, big and small from all parts of the state. Attorney General Mike DeWine’s office was instrumental in helping the committee in its task.

The employer toolkit includes a 5-module course (13-16 minutes long per module) which gives an overview of the legal and operational issues an employer must consider in dealing with an employee’s use of opioids and other substances. The modules include best practices that employers can use in their workplace from how to implement a drug-free workplace program, to crafting solid workplace policies, to offering an employee assistance program and much more. Although each module contains valuable information, it is not necessary that they be watched in order or in their entirety. Each module also has printable resources that employers can use in their workplace. Also included is the *Dose of Reality for*

Employees, a similar online training program specific to employees, and a section for additional resources that will be continually updated.

The Employer Opioid Toolkit partners include Anthem BlueCross/BlueShield which helped provide the funding and Working Partners[®] which helped produce and write the modules.

“We encourage every business and its employees to use these resources,” said Doehrel. “Also, please share the toolkit with other business owners you know. The workplace is a powerful place to both prevent and intervene in the harmful use of substances. It is also the ideal environment to arm employees with information and strategies to help keep their children, or those they influence, drug-free. With these tools, operating a comprehensive drug-free workplace program can increase safety, decrease liability, protect an organization’s reputation and profitability and contribute to building an economically thriving and healthy Ohio!”

Founded in 1893, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce is Ohio’s largest and most diverse statewide business advocacy group. The Ohio Chamber works to promote and protect the interests of its business members, large and small, while building a more favorable business climate.

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