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Ohio Chamber Opposes Rx Ballot Issue

Columbus – The Board of Directors of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce has voted to oppose the ill-conceived and poorly written “Ohio Drug Price Relief Act.” The proposed law, which will appear on the November ballot, would impose unworkable contracting requirements on the state of Ohio whenever it purchases any prescription drugs.

“The prescription drug purchasing issue is yet another example of an out-of-state special interest misusing Ohio’s ballot access process in an effort to advance its own interests – at the expense of Ohio citizens and taxpayers,” said Andrew E. Doehrel, president and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. “This proposal would almost certainly lead to cost-shifting to private payers, including employers, perversely resulting in a majority of Ohioans paying more, not less, for their prescription drugs.”

“While it is so convoluted that it likely couldn’t work as intended, we’re concerned that a similar approach could be expanded to any other industry or product the state purchases if it were successful,” added Doehrel. “Further, the proposal runs counter to the free market values that the Ohio Chamber stands for and is nothing more than an attempt to artificially fix drug prices.”

In expressing its opposition, the Ohio Chamber joins with other business groups, organized labor, doctors, nurse, pharmacists, veterans, and others who have come to the same conclusion: the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act won’t do what it promises and could even make things worse. As part of the Ohio Chamber’s effort to help ensure this deceptive ballot issue is rejected by Ohio voters, the organization is committed to educating its 8,000 plus member companies on the dangerous consequences of this proposed law.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is a champion for Ohio businesses so that our state enjoys economic growth and prosperity. With over 8,000 members, we have been Ohio’s premiere business advocate since 1893.

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