

Label as Drug Price Relief Act – Ballot Issue #2

The Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association advocates for sound health policies for Ohio. The Association is opposing the “Drug Price Relief Act” because it does not offer solution, but creates more problems, especially for veterans, those who may be privately insured and those that have employer coverage, are on Medicare or otherwise do not obtain their medications through state programs. Furthermore, if passed, many drug discount agreements Ohio already has in place with pharmaceutical companies for Medicaid and other state programs would be invalidated. It puts current VA discounts at risk, and military veterans who get their prescriptions through the VA could face potential cost increases. As you realize, veterans face complicated treatments for a variety of injuries, including foot and ankle injuries, orthopedic wounds received in combat and chronic tendon or joint problems. We feel the proposal could raise the cost of medications for hundreds of thousands of our Ohio veterans who depend on the VA for their medical treatments. Our members proudly keep our patients on their feet and this initiative could literally be a detriment to their continued care.

Lastly, the crisis in drug pricing requires a national solution, not a state test case by proposition. The sweeping complexities of purchasing via distribution and corporate pharmacy benefit managers are beyond the capacity of any one state to fix.