

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD  
OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-09-01**

**ADAMHS Board Position: Issue 2: The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act**

**WHEREAS**, on November 7, 2017, Ohioans will vote on Issue 2: The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act. The proposed purpose behind this ballot issue is to reduce the high prices of prescription drugs and save Ohio taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars; and,

**WHEREAS**, in preparation of the Board developing and adopting a formal position on Issue 2, staff examined the pros and cons, proponents and opponents, as well as the position on Issue 2 that was adopted by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) – of which the ADAMHS Board is an active member. The information was presented and discussed during the Board’s September 6, 2017, Community Relations and Advocacy (CRA) Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CRA Committee determined that passage of Issue 2 would have a detrimental effect on the citizens of Ohio, especially for individuals relying on medication to obtain and maintain recovery from mental illness and/or addictions; and, that since Issue 2 does not contain clear implementation guidelines and passage could produce fiscal and legal challenges, including requiring the State to pay petitioners’ reasonable attorney fees and other expenses, a consensus was reached that the ADAMHS Board should oppose Issue 2.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The ADAMHS Board has thoroughly vetted and discussed the pros and cons of the passage of Issue 2.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County formally adopts the following position statement:

***ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County  
Statement on Proposed Statute (Issue 2) on State Drug Purchasing in Ohio***

*The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County supports ideas to decrease the cost of prescription medication for the citizens of Ohio, especially for individuals relying on medication to obtain and maintain recovery from mental illness and/or addictions. However, the Board believes that the proposed statute on state drug purchasing in Ohio is not a viable solution and if passed would not benefit the citizens of Ohio, but rather could produce fiscal and legal challenges. Since the statute does not include clear definitions or guidelines, implementation would be nearly impossible and potentially detrimental to clients trying to access critical, life-saving medications. This decision is consistent with the Board’s efforts to educate the public, maintain costs and ensure treatment and recovery services for individuals living with mental illness and/or addictions.*

3. The ADAMHS Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer and staff to share the position statement and educate the community on Issue 2 which will appear on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

On the motion of Pythias D. Jones, M.D., seconded by Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., the foregoing motion was adopted.

AYES: R. Blue, C. Caraballo, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, C. Handler, P. Jones, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, S. Rosenbaum, M. Step, E. Thoms

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: H. Shannon

DATE ADOPTED: September 27, 2016