

Issue 1 would flood streets with drugs, harm business



Phillip L. Parker
CAE, CCE President & CEO

Once again, outside “big money” is trying to buy Ohio voters with another drug deal. Now these out-of-state “crazies” want to allow for reducing drug penalties to those who are selling on our streets and in our neighborhoods. Didn’t we tell them a couple of years ago that Ohio doesn’t want to be known as a drug-induced state?

Issue 1 is insane, and here is why:

1. Issue 1 makes possession of deadly drugs, including fentanyl, nothing more than a misdemeanor, and forbids jail sentencing for the first two offenses, no matter what quantities of drugs are involved.

2. Issue 1 significantly damages Ohio’s economy and our job development efforts. Ohio would be alone among

states in our region with ultra-liberal drug laws, at a time when Ohio employers already complain that they cannot find workers who can pass drug tests. Issue 1 would drive jobs from Ohio.

3. Issue 1 puts Ohio drug laws in the state Constitution, where they can be changed only through lengthy process and vote of the electorate. Ohio would be unable to respond rapidly to any new drug threat.

4. Issue 1 will flood Ohio’s streets with drugs. With all deterrents gone except traffic-violation-level fines, possessors of drugs would laugh at police, knowing they could not be jailed.

5. Issue 1 enables the immediate release of as many as 10,000 felony offenders from Ohio prisons into our communities.

We in Ohio, especially in our Dayton region, know far too well the ravaging effects of the opioid crisis, including and especially the unfettered use of fentanyl. We don’t need more of the same on our streets.

Right now, we have busi-

ness organizations, like the chamber of commerce, all over the state of Ohio coming out against Issue 1. Not only does the vast majority of our law enforcement leaders around Ohio say “no” to Issue 1, but now your local and statewide governments are also standing up against Issue 1 and the drug wackos.

They understand that the cost of enforcement and the costs associated with reducing the consequences, both intentional and unintentional, will have severe impacts on our services and tax dollars. They, too, are clearly saying “no” to Issue 1.

Our chamber has always stood for good government, and we believe the continued use of our Ohio Constitution as a method of allowing the drug proponents to have an open playground is not in our best interest.

At a recent Oct. 2 press conference, we collaborated with area employers and law enforcement to denounce Issue 1. Mat Heck, Montgomery County prosecuting attorney, said it well when he said, “Issue 1 will handcuff our ability to reduce opioids

and fentanyl off our streets.”

You may have also seen where we invited Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor to speak to our community Oct. 28. She was clear in her position that Issue 1 would make the possession of powdered fentanyl in amounts less than 20 grams a misdemeanor, with only probation as the consequence.

This means that drug offenders and dealers, caught with 19 grams of fentanyl – enough to kill 10,000 people – would easily continue their devastation of our communities. She, like me, feels allowing this to happen in and to Ohioans is unconscionable.

This does not belong in our Ohio Constitution, let alone the negative impacts it will have on our citizens, employers and state. I hope you will see how incredibly stupid these outsiders are to try to force this on us. A “no” vote against Issue 1 on Nov. 6 is our most rational and logical vote if we are to protect Ohio.

Thank you for protecting Ohio and your neighbors.

BUSINESS PEOPLE

CareSource, a nonprofit, multistate, multiproduct health plan announced **Jeff Myers** has joined its leadership staff as Executive Vice President, Strategic and External Relations.



Myers

Myers, an accomplished executive with experience leading high-profile initiatives, will focus on strategy and business development in order to drive new opportunities and partnerships for the company. He will also provide strategic leadership over regulatory and government affairs.

Myers is adept in health care administration and has

extensive experience in provider, payer and life-sciences health care environments. Most recently, Myers served as Chief Executive Officer and President at the Medicaid Health Plans of America, a national trade organization focused on Medicaid health plans.

Before that, he served as Senior Vice President, Policy and Government Relations at the American Health Care Association. He has also held a number of government affairs and public policy positions in the pharmaceutical and nursing home industries.

Myers earned a Bachelor of Arts in international relations and psychology from Rhodes College in Tennessee and an MBA from the Duke University Fuqua School of Business.

BUSINESS OPENINGS

The City of Clayton and the Northmont Chamber of Commerce joined Dr. Beth Weisberger, DVM, and her staff at the groundbreaking for their state-of-the-art **North Main Animal Clinic** at 8505 N. Main Street on Oct. 24.

The new 5,320-square-foot clinic will offer the Northmont region with continued great care for the community’s pets and animals and signifies a \$1 million investment in the Clayton community.

The new facility, located

at the northwest corner of North Main Street and Old Salem Road, will also be the first building in Clayton using the new North Main Street Overlay standards, demonstrating the city’s emphasis on the new development standards along this commercial corridor.

Clayton officials are excited to continue working with Dr. Weisberger and her staff at their new facilities and look forward to their commitment of being a longtime anchor within the Clayton community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for all events at DaytonChamber.org.

■ **Breakfast Briefing**, Nov. 9, 7:30 to 9 a.m., The Dayton Club, 40 N. Main St., Dayton. Topic: An inside look at FirstNet – a new wireless technology designed by

first responders

■ **Connect Up**, Nov. 13, 3 to 5 p.m., Montgomery County Business Solutions Center, 1435 Cincinnati St., Suite 300, Dayton. Topic: Give your elevator pitch and get networking!

■ **Safety Breakfast with**

the Experts, Nov. 15, 7:30 to 9 a.m., Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 E. Fifth St., Dayton. Topic: What is cold stress?

■ **Legislative Reception**, Nov. 15, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Basil’s on Market, 312 N. Patterson Blvd., Dayton.

Topic: Meet your 2019-2020 elected officials.

■ **Safety Breakfast with the Experts**, Dec. 20, 7:30 to 9 a.m., Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 E. Fifth St., Dayton. Topic: OSHA & Workers’ Comp Case Law Update.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Sales Tax Collections

County	Current Rate	Jun 2018	Jun 2017	12 Mos Change	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD Change
Butler	0.75%	\$ 3,845,218	\$ 3,870,561	-0.65%	\$ 21,540,538	\$ 22,465,445	-4.12%
Clark	1.50%	\$ 2,154,474	\$ 2,297,837	-6.24%	\$ 11,876,283	\$ 13,274,054	-10.53%
Darke	1.50%	\$ 763,652	\$ 783,741	-2.56%	\$ 4,316,293	\$ 4,530,059	-4.72%
Greene	1.00%	\$ 2,414,593	\$ 2,369,469	1.90%	\$ 13,543,850	\$ 13,902,820	-2.58%
Miami	1.25%	\$ 1,580,564	\$ 1,592,256	-0.73%	\$ 9,085,381	\$ 9,412,997	-3.48%
Montgomery	1.00%	\$ 6,591,228	\$ 7,230,872	-8.85%	\$ 38,401,397	\$ 42,168,645	-8.93%
Preble	1.50%	\$ 489,733	\$ 483,201	1.35%	\$ 2,789,434	\$ 2,987,136	-6.62%
Warren	1.00%	\$ 4,525,906	\$ 3,507,067	29.05%	\$ 23,906,622	\$ 19,992,291	19.58%
Region Total		\$ 22,365,368	\$ 22,135,004	1.04%	\$ 125,459,799	\$ 128,733,445	-2.54%

Source: http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax_analysis/tax_data_series/sales_and_use/publications_tds_sales/51M0618.aspx

Residential Home Sales

	Jun '18	Jun '17	%Change	YTD '18	YTD '17	%Change
Number of Homes Sold	1684	1690	-0.36%	7796	7757	0.50%
Total Home Sales	\$309,647,478	\$285,222,709	8.56%	\$1,278,682,510	\$1,197,478,652	6.78%
Average Sale Price (\$)	\$183,876	\$168,771	8.95%	\$164,018	\$154,374	6.25%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales for June 2018

Burgers

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Perdue Foods halted the use of antibiotics in 2014 and was soon followed by Foster Farms, Tyson Foods and Pilgrim’s Pride.

Sanderson Farms remains the only top poultry company to buck the trend, even as 40 percent of its shareholders this year backed a proxy measure to curtail the use of antibiotics.

“Once Perdue offered it and consumers bought it and the fast-food chains went for it, the rest of the companies followed,” said Jean Halloran, director of food policy initiatives at Consumers Union and a contributor to the report.

Following the lead of Panera Bread and Chipotle Mexican Grill, industry leaders such as Chick-fil-A, McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell, KFC and others instituted broad policies limiting antibiotic use in poultry.

Those trends help explain a sharp reversal in antibiotic purchases in the food animal industry – the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported a 10 percent annual drop in 2016, after sales had risen 11 percent in the previous five years.

The beef and pork indus-

tries, which have stopped using antibiotics solely to enhance growth of otherwise healthy animals, have balked at further limits. They argue that using low doses preventively – mostly in younger, low-weight animals – can avoid more widespread application if illnesses break out.

“The beef industry promotes the judicious use of antibiotics to keep potential risk of developing antibiotic-resistant bacteria extremely low,” the National Cattlemen’s Beef Assn. said. “In addition, the beef community has invested significantly in research and education programs like Beef Quality Assurance to maintain high standards of animal care and health.”

Last year, the FDA tightened its guidelines to require veterinary “oversight or consultation” for measures “considered necessary for assuring animal health,” including administering antibiotics.

Those guidelines leave a substantial loophole, activists say.

“A veterinarian can prescribe for months on end for extremely large numbers of animals,” Halloran said. “We’re not opposed to treatment of sick animals, but that’s not the way antibiotics are used.”

After faintly praising



About 1 in 5 drug-resistant infections in humans comes from food and animals. TNS

McDonald’s with a C-minus in last year’s report, the groups flunked the fast-food titan this year because of lingering concerns that McDonald’s has not set firmer deadlines to eliminate antibiotics in its beef supplies.

McDonald’s has said that it is committed to more ethical and judicious use of antibiotics but that curbing their use could conflict with its broader animal welfare goals.

“Treating sick animals is consistent with the company’s long-standing commitment to animal health and welfare,” the company said in a written policy. “Engaging farmers, producers and veterinarians in the responsible use of antibiotics is key to achieving our vision of preserving antibiotic effectiveness for both humans and animals.”

McDonald’s shift away

from antibiotics in its U.S. poultry supply chain, which began about three years ago, was a turning point for the industry given the fast-food chain’s enormous footprint and influence. McDonald’s also had announced it would buy only eggs raised in facilities that don’t confine chickens to small cages.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group, which has spearheaded the antibiotics campaign, plans to focus consumers’ attention on McDonald’s, as it previously did on KFC’s owner, Yum Brands, which pledged to go antibiotic-free last year.

Consumer Reports said its polling shows that 60 percent of respondents would pay more for a burger if it were certified to come from cows that were not fed antibiotics. A vast majority of those polled also said they favored making companies reveal the names and quantities of antibiotics they use on animals.

About 1 in 5 drug-resistant infections in humans comes from food and animals, according to the CDC, which has pushed for more conservative policies on antibiotic prescription by both veterinarians and physicians. The CDC also found that 1 in 3 prescriptions by physicians is not needed.

Prices

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need the metal to make furniture components.

With fall being the busiest time for the furniture industry, Klaben said Morris Furniture had already imported excess merchandise in advance of the tariffs and hasn’t yet had to hike prices to keep up with tariffs since the stores are still selling merchandise from before the tariffs took effect.

“We’ve increased our inventories so that we can maintain our current pricing, and we’re stocking up on inventory at the 10 percent tariff rate (in advance of the increase to 25 percent) so we can reduce any effect that it has on our customers,” Klaben said.

Now is the time to make those major purchases, Klaben said. At the end of the year, the CEO said, he’s going to be forced to raise the prices to reflect the 5 percent to 10 percent addition suppliers are charging to foot the bill for the tariffs.

President Donald Trump first enacted the 10 percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, including consumer goods in September. There were two other rounds of tariffs earlier this year.

Trump said the duties are meant the halt China’s theft of U.S. technology and coercion of American companies to surrender their trade secrets in return for access to the Chinese market.

In addition to reducing the trade deficit, Trump said

the trade war will bring jobs back to the United States after they had previously moved to China, where low wages make production cheaper.

“In general, I’m definitely for more American-made products; that’s why we’ve always pushed Ohio-made, American-made. I’m still waiting to see how everything pans out,” Farrell said.

If the tariffs create more jobs, then he approves, but he’s not convinced yet and is waiting to see how the tariffs play out. Nevertheless, the increased prices of Chinese imports are encouraging his customers to buy more fully American-made products, Farrell said.

“There’s not much I can do about it. I think in six months, eight months, we’ll all be used to it, but right now it’s something new,” Tegtmeier said. “Whenever we have a price increase, everybody gets panicky at first.”

Yet Klaben said the tariffs are not a long-term solution and will drastically impact every item Americans buy if the increase to 25 percent takes place.

“In the furniture industry, I haven’t seen any increase in manufacturing in the U.S. that is to counter this. My personal opinion is that the only thing at this point that the tariffs hurt are the American consumer. The Chinese manufacturers aren’t the ones that pay the tariff,” he said.

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