



May 30, 2018

Statement from Diane Wish, President, Ohio Renal Association, on behalf of Ohio's providers of outpatient dialysis services

A proposed Ohio constitutional amendment to create redundant, bureaucratic regulations for outpatient dialysis clinics and to limit payments to dialysis providers is a deceptive and dangerous proposition. It puts at serious risk the health and care of an estimated 18,000 Ohioans who rely on life-sustaining kidney dialysis treatments three times each week.

The amendment is sponsored by the SEIU-UHW, an organization with a history of using ballot issues as a tactic to promote its political and organizational agendas — even at the risk of harming the health and well-being of our communities.

The proposal is poorly-written, duplicative of existing federal and state rules and regulations, and places arbitrary limits on provider payments. Rather than protecting patients, these misguided provisions will likely drive many clinics to reduce services or close operations completely. This would translate into dramatically reduced access to treatment and significantly more travel time and expense for patients. For many, the health consequences could be dire.

The proposed amendment emanates from California, where a similar SEIU-UHW initiative is scheduled to appear on this November's statewide ballot. The promoters of the California measure have hired paid petition circulators to gather signatures in Ohio, with the intention of placing it on Ohio's November statewide ballot.

This proposed Constitutional amendment is deceptive, ill-conceived, and unnecessary, and carelessly puts the health of Ohio's kidney dialysis patients at great risk. We strongly oppose this amendment.

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Diane Wish is the longtime president of the Ohio Renal Association, whose members operate 326 local outpatient dialysis clinics throughout Ohio. The clinics serve an estimated 18,000 Ohioans who rely on their services to live. A typical patient receives dialysis three times each week, with each visit taking about three or four hours. Since 1983, Wish, a registered nurse, has served as CEO of the nonprofit Centers for Dialysis Care, which operates 17 facilities throughout Northeast Ohio.