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MEDIA STATEMENT

The following is the statement of Cathy Levine and Col Owens, co-chairs of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage, on the passage of state Issue 3.

“Today, the Affordable Care Act is a winner and Ohioans are the losers. While the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. joined other appellate courts in upholding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act today, proponents of Issue 3 inserted deceptive language into the Ohio Constitution which will do nothing to repeal ‘Obamacare.’

With a last-minute financial boost from politically motivated, out-of-state interests, Issue 3 won a spot in Ohio’s constitution, a move that will literally be hazardous to the health and pocketbooks of Ohioans.

While the ‘yes’ voters may think they are getting health care ‘freedom,’ the consequences of this broad constitutional language are very different. The far-reaching and ambiguous language of Issue 3 will likely generate numerous lawsuits at taxpayer’s expense. Depending on court interpretation, Issue 3 could tie the hands of our lawmakers and put the future of important public health programs in the hands of lawyers and judges. That is why doctors, legal experts, and major newspapers across the state opposed Issue 3.

Ohio has much work to do. We cannot let the passage of Issue 3 distract us from uniting payers, employers, providers, and consumers to improve health care delivery, lower health care costs, and expand options for affordable coverage. We pledge to do all in our power to ensure that Issue 3’s passage does not hamper Ohio’s efforts to move forward with important policy decisions to meet the health care needs of Ohio.”

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage is a nonpartisan coalition uniting the diverse consumer voice with the goal of achieving affordable, high quality health care for all. Our membership includes AFSCME Council 8 AFL-CIO, American Cancer Society East Central Division, Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, National Alliance for Mental Illness of Ohio, National Multiple Sclerosis Society Ohio Chapters, Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, The Ohio Association of Centers for Independent Living, Ohio Council of Churches, Progress Ohio, Service Employees International Union District 1199, Toledo Area Jobs with Justice Coalition, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1059, UHCAN Ohio, and We Are The Uninsured.

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