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June 17, 2025

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor of Ohio  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

Today, Consumers' Research, the nation's oldest consumer advocacy organization, is issuing a *Consumer Warning* focused on nonprofit hospital systems across the United States using taxpayer-sponsored resources to fund ideologically charged policies and programming. As part of this campaign, we focus on Cleveland Clinic for prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), gender ideology, and climate activism, which run counter to Ohioans' values.

As noted in the report, many nonprofit hospital systems have leveraged numerous funding streams from the federal government and benefits from their tax-exempt status to advance controversial political and social causes rather than serve their community. This means that taxpayers are wrongly left footing the bill for hospitals' political activism.

Nonprofit health system Cleveland Clinic generated nearly \$16 billion in revenue in 2024, with CEO Tom Mihaljevic being paid more than \$7 million in compensation, but according to [him](#), "healthcare is only part" of Cleveland Clinic's mission. The health system believes DEI and [racial prioritization](#) should be [embedded](#) into everything it does, it embraces radical transgenderism for [children](#), and is a self-proclaimed [leader](#) in climate activism.

Since 2021, Consumers' Research has raised the alarm and educated consumers through the [Consumers First Initiative](#) about the dangers of woke capitalism and how institutions and companies pushing an activist agenda are betraying their customers. Recently, we expanded our consumer education [initiative](#) to include hospitals nationwide that are prioritizing political ideology over patients. Just like in companies and academia, there is no room for woke politics in our health systems. Such behavior stands in direct opposition to the [policies](#) of President Trump and his administration. Through [executive orders](#) and agency actions, President Trump has worked to eliminate woke politics, including DEI initiatives, from institutions like hospitals.

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It is time for the health systems highlighted in the *Consumer Warning* and others engaging in these political agendas to refocus on their core mission of providing exemplary care to patients at low costs.

We urge you to again take a stand and demand hospitals in Ohio cease their left-wing activism and ensure that nonprofit healthcare institutions prioritize patient care over political agendas. Consumers' Research trusts you will act in the best interests of your constituents and the values they hold dear.

Sincerely,

*Will Hild*

William Hild  
Executive Director, Consumers' Research

CC: Ohio Department of Health Director Bruce T. Vanderhoff, M.D., MBA

**Attachment:**

Consumers' Research Consumer Warning: Woke Hospitals: Embracing Political Priorities Ahead of Patient Care

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