**2019 OTC/Rx Drug-Impaired Driving**

**SAMPLE OP-ED**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]**

**CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number, E-mail Address]**

*Note: Before filling in the names of the organization and organization spokesperson, you MUST contact them for permission to use their names in this op-ed.*

**Danger in the Drug Store**

Impaired driving is dangerous and there’s more than one way to be under the influence. We know that whenever someone gets behind the wheel of a vehicle impaired by slowed reaction time or diminished judgement or coordination, it puts all road users at risk.

What many Americans don’t consider is that common over-the-counter and prescription drugs may cause impairment that can affect their ability to drive safely.

The effect of alcohol on driving is well-known. Lesser known is the impact of OTC and prescription drugs on driving. In a national roadside survey of drivers conducted in 2013-2014, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that during weekday daytime, 10 percent of drivers tested positive for the presence of a prescription or OTC drug.

Most people don’t realize some prescription and OTC drugs can impair their driving ability and **[State Agency/Local Organization]** urges motorists to think twice before getting behind the wheel, particularly after taking allergy and sleep medicines, antihistamines and prescription pain relievers.

As a community, we must take action to reduce the number of drug-impaired-driving crashes and fatalities by making the public aware that prescription and OTC drugs can impair driving skills. If drivers are impaired by any substance—alcohol or drugs—they should not get behind the wheel of a vehicle. It is never okay to drive while impaired by any substance.

Keeping America’s roads safe is a shared responsibility. If you’ve taken OTC or prescription drugs and feel lightheaded, confused, drowsy or uncoordinated, don’t drive; pass your key to a sober driver.

For information on the dangers of impaired driving and tips on how to keep our roadways safe, visit [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov/).

***[Local Organization Representative]*** *is* ***[Title]*** *of* ***[Local Organization]*** *with more than XX years of experience keeping communities safe.*