



OHIO NEWS MEDIA ASSOCIATION | 1335 DUBLIN ROAD, SUITE 216-B | COLUMBUS OH 43215  
MONICA NIEPORTE, PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Ohio House Civil Justice Committee  
House Bill 238 / Whistleblower Protections  
Written Testimony of Monica Nieporte  
President & Executive Director / Ohio News Media Association  
May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

On behalf of the members of the Ohio News Media Association, which represents newspaper and digital news outlets across the state, I thank committee members for this opportunity to express support for House Bill 238, sponsored by Representatives Gary Scherer and Jack Cera.

As you now, HB 238 would make meaningful updates to Ohio's Whistleblower Protection Law. These changes include expanding the types of activities an employee may disclose and methods a report can be made as well as increasing protections for whistleblowers.

Newspapers provide an important service as watchdogs of government and we are committed to ensuring full transparency and accountability. The willingness of employees to come forward and shine a light on corrupt, inappropriate, or illegal activity is critical to our ability to provide this service. HB 238 will ensure that Ohio journalists can continue to do excellent work.

I wanted to commend the bill sponsors for taking the lead on this important issue and I hope the committee will favorably report HB 238. Thank you for your consideration.