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**Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Senate Bill 107 / Campaign Finance Reports
Written Testimony of Monica Nieporte
President & Executive Director / Ohio News Media Association
April 9th, 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 Senate Bill 107, sponsored by Senator Michael Rulli.

This legislation would create greater transparency and accountability for local government elections and allow local media outlets to provide better, more-detailed coverage of elections across the state.

SB 107 expands the number of political entities and candidates that can file campaign finance statements electronically. This includes the State Board of Education, local government offices, as well as county political parties and PACs. These filings would fall under the same standards for electronic filing that are currently in place for most legislative and statewide candidates.

This is a pro-transparency piece of legislation that would create consistency between local government races and elections for general assembly and statewide offices. Given the influence and importance of money in politics, it seems self-evident to utilize modern technology so that all citizens, including constituents and journalists, have ready access to these reports.

I wanted to commend Senator Rulli for taking on this important issue and also want to thank Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose for continuing to push for passage of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.