



HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
Proponent Testimony on HB 40
Thursday, February 23, 2017

Good morning Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bischoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. My name is Micah Derry. I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity- Ohio and am testifying on behalf of the 123,000 activists in our state chapter. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 40 to codify the state online checkbook.

Americans for Prosperity is a grassroots organization with activists across the state of Ohio who advocate and promote limited government, lower taxes, and more freedom. We exist to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream- especially the least fortunate.

Americans for Prosperity-Ohio supports House Bill 40 and has marked it as a Key Vote on our Legislative Scorecard because it demonstrates a commitment to accountable government spending. When Treasurer Mandel unveiled OhioCheckbook.com in December of 2014, Ohio set a new national standard for government transparency. The state demonstrated a solid commitment to showing taxpayers how their hard-earned dollars are spent by posting OhioCheckbook.com. Without any other contributing factors, the Treasurer's website launched Ohio from 46th to 1st in the country in the transparency rankings published annually by the Public Interest Research Group.

While the legislation before this committee only codifies the treasurer's site, the committee should hold confidence in knowing that by virtue of opening the state's books, local governments have followed the state's lead. Treasurer Mandel's office extended the opportunity to local governments to open their books. This resulted in over 1000 local governments committing to follow suit, spanning all 88 counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee, transparency is a non-partisan issue. Rather, House Bill 40 is a commitment to Ohio taxpayers: a commitment to allow them to know how and

where their tax dollars are being spent, and a commitment to allow them to play a role in rooting out government waste, fraud, and abuse.

It is our sincere hope that this committee sees the value of this legislation and will do the same thing the House Committee did in the previous general assembly by referring House Bill 40 to the floor unanimously.

Chair Anielski, thank you for your time, I am more than happy to answer any questions from the committee.