

ROBERT SPRAGUE

OHIO TREASURER

House Bill 46 Proponent Testimony
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
Brandon Kern, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Office of Ohio Treasurer of State
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Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 46.

Good government requires the availability of accessible and accurate information regarding the use of tax dollars. Since its creation in 2014, OhioCheckbook.com has provided Ohioans open access to view and understand how their tax dollars are spent. As a result, Ohio has increased its standing nationally in transparency and accountability in government spending. As the constitutionally designated steward of Ohio's treasury, Treasurer Sprague embraces the role of providing this information to Ohioans.

The OhioCheckbook provides meaningful insight into public expenditures. As of this month, there have been more than one million page views of OhioCheckbook.com. Users have options to search expenditures by agency, by expense category, type or code and even by recipient. The website displays interactive charts and graphs, can run comparisons of state agencies and produce reports, research public salaries and more.

The OhioCheckbook has empowered Ohioans to take a closer look at how their tax dollars are spent. House bill 46 would ensure that this important tool continues to be available to Ohioans in the future.

Thank you, Chairman Wiggam and members of the committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.