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**Ohio Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee  
House Bill 46 / State Government Expenditure Database  
Written Testimony of Monica Nieporte  
President & Executive Director / Ohio News Media Association  
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Chairman Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 46.

As we've stated in previous testimony, the current Ohio Checkbook website operated by the Treasurer of State is very easy to use and effective for journalists, business people and everyday citizens. Since its inception, the checkbook data has found its way into dozens of articles about government spending in Ohio newspapers.

Not only has this resulted in more accurate and informative coverage of governmental operations, but in many instances the checkbook website has mitigated the need for a public records request. This has the benefit of saving time and money for state agencies and local governments.

It would be a shame if state government does not continue this effort in the future so a statutory requirement makes sense. In our opinion, the treasurer's office website richly deserves its status as a national model for other "checkbook" sites.

We urge the committee to favorably report HB 46, to continue to allow citizens and journalists to have transparency concerning how public funds are spent.