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October 22, 2019

Honorable Kirk Schuring
Ohio Senate
Chairman
Senate General Government & Agency
Review Committee
1 Capitol Sq., 2nd Fl.
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Sean O'Brien
Ohio Senate
Ranking Member
Senate General Government & Agency
Review Committee
1 Capitol Sq., 2nd Fl.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Schuring & Senator O'Brien,

I write today to offer my support for House Bill (HB) 46, which if enacted would establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.

An open government is a good government. This bill would require expenditure reporting by each state agency, as well as state and school district employee salary information. Publicizing this information will ensure the public can learn of and comment on where their tax dollars are being spent. This is a positive step in Ohio's continued efforts to achieve a more open and accountable government.

Moreover, I believe that the creation of a centralized government expenditure database would yield another important benefit. Access to accurate purchase data is essential to the successful detection, investigation, and prosecution of anticompetitive vendor conduct such as bid-rigging or price-fixing on public contracts. The database contemplated by this bill would provide an important tool to my antitrust staff that would both aid in the prosecution of reported schemes, and enable the proactive detection of unreported ones. Anything that enhances my ability to return public dollars to the cities, counties, townships, and school districts from which they were wrongfully taken is a measure deserving of my support.

I commend Representative Greenspan for bringing forward this important legislation. I am happy to discuss this issue with you or any members of the committee at your convenience.

Yours,

Dave Yost
Attorney General of Ohio

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