

# ROBERT SPRAGUE

OHIO TREASURER

**House Bill 46 Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee**  
**Brandon Kern, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs**  
**Office of Ohio Treasurer of State**  
**December 4, 2019**

Chairman Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and Members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 46.

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, Treasure Sprague embraces the role of providing this information to Ohioans.

The Ohio Checkbook provides meaningful insight into public expenditures. As of this month, there have been more than one million page views of OhioCheckbook.com. Users have many different options to search expenditures by agency, by expense category 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.

Treasurer Sprague is also proud of a recent announcement he made with Lt. Governor Husted to enter into a new partnership that ensures OhioCheckbook.com remains a valued resource for taxpayers for years to come. Under the proposal, day-to-day management of OhioCheckbook.com will be administered in collaboration between the Ohio Treasurer's office and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) with the support of the Office of Information Technology (OIT).

OhioCheckbook.com and OBM's Ohio Interactive Budget will be merged, eliminating duplication and bolstering overall efficiencies while utilizing the best characteristics of the two tools. We understand the committee will consider an amendment to codify this relationship, which is something Treasurer Sprague wholeheartedly supports.

The Ohio Checkbook 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 Schuring and members of the committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.