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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
December 8th, 2020**

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 additional testimony in support of House Bill 46.

The Ohio Checkbook website operated by the Treasurer of State is very easy to use and effective for journalists, businesspeople and everyday citizens. Since its inception, the checkbook data has found its way into dozens of articles about government spending in Ohio newspapers. Our reporters have commented numerous times about the useful and accessibility of the site.

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 is exciting to see this important legislation nearing the finish line.

Ohio's 'Checkbook' website is a national model and a point of pride for our state government. I am especially happy to see the Office of Budget and Management and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services part of this effort as it will improve the quality and quantity of data on the site.

In closing, I urge the committee to favorably report HB 46 so that citizens and journalists to have transparency concerning how public funds are spent. Thank you for your time and consideration.