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Testimony of Monica Nieporte
Ohio News Media Association
House Bill 44 – Record Parole Board Hearings
House Criminal Justice Committee

Chairman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 44. This is a pro-transparency piece of legislation and I want to commend Representatives Stewart and Humphrey for bringing this bill forward.

As you know, HB 44 would require Parole Board hearings to be recorded and made available under Ohio's Public Records Act. These recordings will not only serve as critical resources for victims and legal representatives, but will also increase accountability and allow for better coverage of parole board decisions by Ohio's media outlets.

HB 44 includes language that exempts information relating to the victim or member of the victim's family from being recorded or released. This is an important exemption that strikes a balance between protecting victim rights while still shining more light on the work of the Parole Board.

It is my hope that you will favorably report this bipartisan piece of legislation and provide additional transparency to the parole process. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.