

House Bill 413 - Proponent Testimony

Ohio State Local Government Expenditure Databases

February 3, 2026

Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed and House Members of the Ohio House Technology and Innovation Committee:

I would like to thank you for accepting my written testimony on HB 413 sponsored by Representatives Young and Peterson. I am honored and I thank **them** for their hard work on this project.

I anticipate that we can all agree, by the end of today's testimony, *transparency and trust* are the *cornerstone* of what all Ohioans want and expect from their leaders and from the institutions of our state, especially when it comes to spending TAXPAYER'S money and for what means.

My name is Susan Schindel. I have lived nearly all of my life in the beautiful state of Ohio. My husband and I have paid taxes to our city, township, county and state, without exception, for years. We expect that our money is wisely spent by the hundreds of state entities funded by WE the TAXPAYERS, and that the coffers are always well supervised and our children and grandchildren can continue to live in a State that is fiscally responsible and trustworthy.

To date, fiscal information regarding government spending has been scarce and unreasonably difficult to obtain for the taxpaying citizens of Ohio. Jumping through hoops doesn't begin to describe the process of merely attempting to review our City, County and State financial records. **It is time that changes.** With the passing of House Bill 413, citizens of Ohio will have full, unobstructed and streamlined access to detailed financial records of all expenditures and revenues for every single state entity. WE the TAXPAYERS will be able to review the spending habits of our government subdivisions through a user-friendly source, one that is technologically superior and can be examined easily **for up-to-date** financial records. Let us not forget that those who hold government office are public servants, elected by the people to act and spend in their favor, and thus owe their taxpaying constituency full fiscal transparency to ensure our voices are heard.

I thank you for confirming, with your future votes, that the taxpayer will know their hard-earned money is being accounted for responsibly and that we can monitor all Ohio Government spending when HB 413 Local Government Expenditure Databases is supported.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Schindel