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**Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
House Bill 535—Naloxone – Naltrexone Data Reporting
Written Testimony of Dennis R. Hetzel
President & Executive Director / Ohio News Media Association
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On behalf of the members of the Ohio News Media Association, which represents newspaper and digital news outlets across the state, I thank committee members for this opportunity to express support for House Bill 535, sponsored by Representative Theresa Gavarone. We believe this bill will result in stronger reporting of information and data related to drug overdoses across Ohio.

Ohio's drug overdose crisis has decimated communities and families and placed our state in the national spotlight. Unfortunately, many Ohioans still do not realize the scale of this crisis; that is why legislation like HB 353 is so important. As policymakers, community leaders, and others grapple with the crisis and pursue solutions, information is vital to the response.

Under the bill, the Ohio Department of Health will publish a monthly report on its website outlining the total number of drug overdose cases that were admitting to Ohio hospitals. This report will also identify the total number of drug overdose fatalities at each hospital every month. Additionally, ODH will compile reports summarizing the use of Naloxone and related data. Finally, the bill requires the Pharmacy Board to monitor Naltrexone and provide information on its use to the General Assembly.

HB 535 has been dubbed the "Opioid Data and Communication Expansion Act" and I believe that is a very appropriate name. All of the reporting described above would be public record and is valuable information for reporters covering Ohio's opioid epidemic. In closing, I want to commend Rep. Gavarone and the bill's cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward and urge the committee to favorably report this measure. Thank you for your time and consideration.