



SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT & AGENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE -- Proponent Testimony for House Bill 46 Wednesday, 10/29/2019

Chairman Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Yuko and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon. My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Legislative Liaison for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. Our organization is dedicated to breaking internal and external barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. On behalf of our thousands of activists across the state, I'm happy to offer testimony in support of House Bill 46, which would codify the state online checkbook.

Americans for Prosperity – Ohio supports House Bill 46 because it demonstrates a commitment to accountable government spending, and because it provides easy access to key information for concerned citizens to understand how their money is being put to use. When former Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel unveiled OhioCheckbook.com in December of 2014, Ohio set a new national standard for government transparency. Without any other contributing factors, the Treasurer's website launched Ohio from 46th to 1st in the country in the transparency rankings published annually by the Public Interest Research Group.

While House Bill 46 codifies only the Treasurer's site, the committee should hold confidence in knowing that by virtue of opening the state's books, local governments have followed the state's lead. The Treasurer's office extended the opportunity to local governments to open their books, and this resulted in over 1000 local governments, from all 88 counties, committing to follow suit.

Transparency is, and should be, a non-partisan issue. Government works for the people, not the other way around. House Bill 46 is a commitment to the people of Ohio: a commitment to ensure that they know how and where their tax dollars are being spent, and a commitment to grant them access to the necessary information so they are able to effectively engage in their roles as citizens.

AFP – Ohio would like to thank Rep. Greenspan for reintroducing this important legislation, which passed the House by a vote of 92 – 0 earlier this month. Chairman Schuring, thank you for your time and for putting this bill up today, and I am more than happy to answer any questions from the committee.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.

