



March 9, 2026

Representative Thad Claggett
Chair, Ohio House Technology and Innovation Committee
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Chair Claggett,

On behalf of the nearly 21,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Ohio, we appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 413, legislation to create a local government expenditure database.

For reference, NFIB is a small business trade association founded over 80 years ago that is dedicated to representing the interests of small and independent businesses across our state and nation. NFIB's mission is to promote the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. NFIB members come from all industry sectors and each of the 88 counties across Ohio. Our average member has 15 or fewer employees and has less than \$2 million in annual gross receipts.

House Bill 413 is a commonsense effort to bring local government expenditures to the same level of transparency as state government. Currently, Ohio has no uniform system for tracking local government spending, which at times leads to questions of where tax dollars are going.

Small business owners operate on tight margins, with little room for error. By expanding the Ohio Checkbook to include local governments, HB 413 will create the same level of transparency and accountability already in place at other levels of government. This added visibility will help ensure responsible spending and accountability at the local level.

We appreciate Representatives Peterson and Young for leading this effort and urge the committee to support this legislation. A floor vote on House Bill 413 may be considered a Key Small Business Vote of the 136th General Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support and please feel free to contact me at Jacob.Flowers@nfib.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Flowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacob Flowers
Assistant State Director