

88th House District
Seneca and Sandusky County



Gary Click
State Representative

Committees

Energy and Natural Resources
Behavioral Health and Recovery
Supports
Families, Aging and Human
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Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 353-The Testing Your Faith Act. This piece of legislation seeks to enact section 3345.024 of the Ohio Revised Code to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodations.

The diversity of Ohio comes in many forms including religious diversity. Students in our universities come from a variety of Christian denominations, Jewish traditions, Muslim sects and other systems of belief. The one force that should unite all faiths is religious freedom and liberty.

Individuals pursuing higher education face many necessary challenges and stressors that build their character and confidence. However, one conflict that they should not have to face is the decision between academic excellence and religious fidelity. Unfortunately, many can face a moral dilemma when an exam conflicts with a religious holiday. As a sponsor of this bill, I strongly believe that a student should not be required to jeopardize their academic standing in order to observe a religious holiday.

The Ohio Revised Code does not currently require professors to provide specific religious accommodations. The Testing Your Faith Act codifies reasonable accommodations that allows students to prioritize both their faith and their academic studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Click".

State Representative Gary Click
Ohio House District 88