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**Proponent Testimony: HB 353 – Testing Your Faith Act**  
**Ohio Senate | Committee on Workforce & Higher Education**  
**November 30, 2022 | Columbus, OH**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Martin, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I want to tell you why this bill is so important to me and other students across Ohio. As a senior at Ohio University, I have had my fair share of issues with professors and instructors not excusing my absences during holidays or not allowing my work to be turned in late. One example of this comes from my first year at Ohio University, when I had a professor who threatened to drop my grade by a whole letter after I informed her I was missing class for Passover. I was lucky in that I was able to invoke the school's policy on religious accommodations and save my grade, but students at universities without this policy would not be so fortunate. Had I been at another school, my observance would have negatively impacted my academic success. Every year it seems that there is a friend who comes to me, very upset because they feel that they cannot miss class during the high holy days because they fear it will adversely affect their grades. Students should not have to choose between their religious observance and doing well in school. Religious observance is something that is deeply personal and important to many students, and no student should have to give that up.

I hope that my words have inspired you to allow this bill to pass, this will have an immeasurably positive impact on students like myself. Thank you for your time. I am happy to take any questions.