

May 28, 2024

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 445.

My name is Alyssa Jones, and I am from Franklin County. My husband and I have two children in Ohio public schools and value the choice we have when it comes to providing religious instruction during their school hours at their Westerville City School District elementary school.

We take our children to church and discuss our beliefs at home, and the opportunity to choose released time instruction for our family is so important because they are hearing the same biblical truths from church and home. Repetition is so valuable to children and they are learning the foundational worldview that gives purpose and hope to life and compels them to be kind and loving to their neighbors.

I know not everyone agrees with allowing parents to choose what is best for their families. I have seen how religious instruction is beneficial to my own kids (3rd and 5th grade) without disrupting their schoolwork and that is why I strongly support HB 445. This bill will put decision-making where it belongs: in the hands of parents.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for House Bill 445.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Jones
Westerville, OH