

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 Becke Hoyt and I am from Huron County.

Being a parent is one of the most challenging obligations we will ever have. But it can also be the most cherished and valued. Our youth need Jesus. Our youth, in this great democracy, have choice. Let them be able, with parental consent, to choose to participate in religious instruction during school hours. Seems simple and doable, yet like a lot of ideas today, it is always being challenged. I believe you must be respectful of others, but then I expect that same respect. I love the Lord and know what a difference He can make for us all. I want to be a part of sharing that with my community. I raised three children on my own, working three different jobs at one point to make ends meet, as I gave nearly half my income to babysitters. I don't know, looking back, how we would ever have made it without Jesus. I am so proud that my children all work, own homes and are contributing members of their communities.

Every child should have the chance to hear about the Bible. It is the foundation for a life that is lived to its fullest. It teaches morals and gives examples and can be a guide to anyone with a heart to hear. Our country was established "under God". Dare we forget Him now in these days of tribulation? Let Ohio be a leader in this very stable, free opportunity. We teach our children to read and write, to jump and run, to cook and sew and become independent citizens. Why not give them the option to strengthen their path with character building traits like perseverance and whole-heartedness?

God's Word is for all of us. It is a choice. Our state believes in offering the best to its citizens. We offer wi-fi, food stamps and other programs to all families – if they choose to apply for them. Why not offer a chance to choose the blessings that come from learning about Jesus!

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

Sincerely,



Becke Hoyt