

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Emily Braun

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 Emily Braun and I am from Allen County.

My parents opted to homeschool my sister and I because they wanted us to grow up with a religious worldview that would be the basis for our morality and character. My mom sacrificed her time and career to invest in our future and help us learn how to be responsible, respectful, and successful.

My husband and I are expecting our first child in the fall and are excited that our local school district has provided us the choice to allow our future child to receive religious instruction during the school day. We want our child to receive the benefits of a public-school education while receiving the religious instruction I believe will grow and develop their morals and character. However, there are many parents in Ohio that do not have this opportunity, and like my parents, are choosing other educational routes.

The Supreme Court has made allowance for religious instruction and is backed by decades of academic research that shows religious instruction's positive impact on student behavior, academics, and mental health. I am grateful our school district has given me, as a parent, the choice to choose what is best for my family and that is why I strongly support HB 445.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Braun
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