

May 29, 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 Kelly Sell and I am from Wood County.

As a parent of several children at the school age, I find it very important to have the full rights on what I can choose for my child. Parents always know what is best, and I want to have the option to choose a religious class if it is offered at their school. We have had the exposure of LifeWise Academy in our school district, which has allowed my children to leave for 1 hour a week to attend this Christian class. This has not only improved their ability to make friends, but the character building has been huge inside the classroom and at home. I have test results of my 4th graders that have shown his grades and focus rising in his classroom, we believe that has steamed from his self-esteem and character building that he has learned at LifeWise.

We have noticed that allowing this time away from school, for only an hour a week, has been well worth the commitment. My child has only been missing a library class, in which he has been able to catch up on any missed time at ease. Other children have been able to attend this class that he has invited, which makes it available to those who don't have access to this type of program outside of school hours. It's been very rewarding to see the improvement of the children's behavior, as well as the desire for these children to not want to miss school so that way they don't miss this fun class!

The teachers have commended those that run the program in our district because they have made it easy and smooth to allow the children to step away to go to this class. They have mentioned that the children have been more kind and helpful to each other, which gives a more teachable and peaceful teaching environment for all.

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

Sincerely,

Kelly Sell