

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Luke Snedecor

Dear 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 Luke Snedecor and I am from Delaware County.

I am writing to highlight the critical importance of Release Time Religious Instruction for our public-school students. The right of parents to direct their children's education is fundamental. Recent statistics from a 2024 national poll conducted by RMG Research reveal that 76% of voters support the teaching of moral and character education in public schools. This widespread approval is further underscored by movements in hundreds of school districts where parents have vigorously advocated for released time programs.

Unfortunately, some districts have resisted these efforts, denying parents the ability to choose this form of instruction for their children.

Release Time Religious Instruction also addresses the pressing issue of accessibility. Many parents, particularly those unable to afford private religious schools or homeschool options, find themselves without feasible alternatives for religious education. Release time programs bridge this gap, offering an inclusive solution that allows all parents to integrate religious education into their children's public-school experience. This equitable approach ensures that every family, regardless of financial status, has the opportunity to provide their children with a comprehensive education that aligns with their values and beliefs.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my support for House Bill 445.

Sincerely,
Luke Snedecor