

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 Paulette Garman and I am from Huron County. I have participated in released-time religious education for the past two years with LifeWise Academy in Norwalk, Huron County: one year as a classroom volunteer and one year as a teacher for a third grade class and the same year as a volunteer in a fourth grade class. Over the course of these two years, I have had the opportunity to observe several of the same students.. I have seen positive growth in their behavior, their interaction with one another and their participation in class. I have also observed their growth in understanding of God and the Bible.

I believe every parent should have the choice as to whether their student(s) should have the opportunity to receive this released time education, They are the ones who are responsible before God for the input their child receives (or does not receive if they should choose not to).

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

Sincerely,
Paulette Garman
LifeWise Teacher
Norwalk, OH 44857