

Philip DiYanni

To:

Chair Manning,

Vice Chair Fowler

Ranking Member Robinson

Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 445. My name is Philip DiYanni and I am from Fairfield County. When I was in the third grade, my parents allowed me to participate in the "Release Time" for religious instruction. I cannot overstate the importance and impact this had on my life. Once a week I was able to connect with other children in my school with the same religious beliefs. This allowed me to build friendships with peers who had a positive impact on my life and who supported me in my beliefs. This gave me the confidence to stand up for what I believed. This was the foundation I need to not be influenced by negative peer pressure. I am confident this laid the foundation I needed to achieve the success I had in junior and senior high school.

Please vote allow parents to decide if "Release Time" religious instruction is right for the children. This cannot be left for the school administrators to decide.

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

Sincerely,


Philip DiYanni