

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Renee Findling

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 Renee Findling and I am from Henry County.

My daughters are 19 now, but as a parent I would have welcomed any resource that would have supported my hopes of having daughters that could begin life with a positive attitude. I was fortunate enough to be a part of a church that had programs to provide support outside of our home. At that time my husband did not attend our church. Once my daughters were old enough to start talking on a regular basis it was their input that eventually convinced him he should come to church with us as well. Since that has happened he has made time in his schedule to serve in the church. This was a surprise to me and I am so thankful that my daughters played a role in something I wasn't successful with just me alone. This has strengthened our relationship in our marriage and our family.

There are students that are going to Lifewise Academy that are coming home excited to learn more about the Bible. Many of these students in our area have asked their parents to take them to a church and it is happening! I babysit a couple of kids once in a while and I was humming a song that we sing at church and they joined in by singing along. I asked them where they had heard the song because I didn't think they attended a church and they told me Lifewise! They were excited to talk about it and now we sing the song together. The songs they are learning have positive lyrics and this can help focus them on the good things in life even when life isn't the greatest.

If this opportunity was available to my daughters when they were younger I would have gladly sent them to Lifewise. They spent most of their day at a public school and having time for fun that is rooted in the moral standard of the Bible would have brought joy and positivity possibly if they were having a bad day before they even came home for me to help with that. Anything to focus on the positive to keep feelings of being an outsider or depression at bay is a great goal for any child!

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

Sincerely,

Renee Findling