

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Ryan 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 Ryan Snedecor and I am from Delaware County.

I am writing to advocate for the implementation of Release Time Religious Instruction in our Ohio public schools, underscoring the strong community support and the tangible benefits for students. A recent 2024 national poll by RMG Research indicates that a substantial 76% of voters are in favor of incorporating moral and character education within public school curricula. This sentiment is reflected in the numerous parent-led initiatives across hundreds of school districts aimed at establishing released time programs. Despite this clear demand, some districts have unfortunately been obstructing these efforts, thereby restricting educational choices for families.

The benefits of released time religious courses extend well beyond parental preference, positively influencing student outcomes and school environments. Extensive research over the years has consistently shown that religious instruction can lead to improvements in student behavior, academic achievement, and mental health. A recent study by Thomas P. Miller & Associates on schools involved with LifeWise Academy revealed significant enhancements in student attendance and behavior.

By endorsing Release Time Religious Instruction, we are making a commitment to support the overall well-being and success of our students, while honoring the choices of parents who seek to incorporate these values into their children's education.

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

Sincerely,  
Ryan Snedecor