

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Bill Merkel

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 Bill Merkel and I am from Portage County. I support the passage of House Bill 445

Providing parents with the simple choice to integrate biblical education and character development into the school day will bring enormous benefits to families and communities.

Biblical education provides students an understanding of the basis of American culture and jurisprudence. The idea that certain rights are equally the possession of all humans based upon natural law is fundamental to the organization of our liberty and system of justice. Familiarity with the people and stories of the Bible and the perfect justice and mercy of God show the foundation of these principles and how they can be “lived out”.

Biblical education is full of examples of both good and poor character. The victories of people whose faith compelled them to honor the natural law shows students the character traits and sacrifices required for a just society. And the stories of failure show the terrible consequences of poor decisions.

The gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the New Testament supply the greatest example of character and the priceless hope of eternal life. Faith in Jesus removes fear, supplies courage, and gives the greatest example of the highest character.

Our second president, John Adams, famously stated, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Give parents the opportunity to raise moral and religious children.

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

Sincerely,

Bill Merkel