

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Brian Young

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 Brian Young and I am from Franklin County. I am writing to provide my support for the passage of House Bill 445 and encourage you all to do so.

The purpose of the Released Time for Religious Instruction ruling by the United States Supreme Court was to allow parents the right to decide whether or not their child received religious instruction during school hours. By saying that school districts "may" adopt a RTRI policy, that right is effectively taken away from those parents and placed in the hands of school boards and administrators, whose beliefs and world views might differ from those of the parents.

By passing HB 445, that right will be given back to the parents where it rightly belongs. To not do so is to effectively nullify the original Supreme Court ruling as taking away the opportunity to decide is basically taking away the right to decide. No school board or administrator should be able to circumvent a parent's right to decide for their own child whether or not they can participate in RTRI.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for HB 445.

Sincerely,

Brian S Young