

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Debra A. Ruprecht

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 Debra A. Ruprecht and I am from Medina County.

I STRONGLY feel that released time religious instruction should be allowed in our public schools and encourage you to consider passing House Bill 445.

Parents should have ultimate authority over the education of their children. Public schools exist to serve the public, not to infringe upon our religious freedoms which is what is happening when they tell parents they cannot have released time religious instruction.

I was an elementary school teacher for 30 years and now volunteer with a released time religious education program. There is time in the school day to make this happen and many benefits for both teachers and students. Many important skills such as character building, reading and citizenship can be taught during this time and be of great value to our country in developing responsible citizens.

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

Sincerely,

Debra A. Ruprecht