

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Raymond 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 Raymond 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.

The 1952 U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306 (1952) provides released time guidelines both against government establishment of any one religion and allows expression of the right to the "free exercise of religion" also protected by the First Amendment.

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.

Many foundational skills such as character building, reading and citizenship can be taught during this time and be of great value to our communities and country in developing responsible caring citizens.

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

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Ruprecht