

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Ruth To

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 Ruth To and I am from Van Wert County.

The parents in our communities deserve the opportunity to choose to have released time religious instruction be a part of their public school system. Independent research has proven the positive impact that religious instruction has on our students, families, and communities.

Many parents are unable to send their children to private religious schools or even to homeschool their children. Choosing to utilize our great public educational system should not mean that their right to choose to enroll their children in religious instruction is taken away from them.

Ohio would be better if we were known as a state that takes parents' choices and values seriously. House Bill 445 allows parents the right to choose what is best for their children and families. I personally do not see anything better than ensuring that parents are given the ultimate choice in their child's education.

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

Sincerely,

Ruth To