

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Steve Paramore

Dear 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 Steve Paramore, and I have the honor and privilege of being the Superintendent of Ashland City Schools.

I am certainly an advocate for mandatory Religious Release Time for Public School Students because I firmly believe it allows our students and parents the option to have the best of both worlds educationally. Their child can receive an excellent public education as well as parentally consented religious instruction off campus. This release time has impacted the students in our district in the most positive way and we have seen no sign in educational instructional loss.

Most importantly, we are subjecting students to other human beings that will show them love, grace, and support through the Gospel and character based instruction. These are topics that can be limited in coverage in a public-school setting. In a Nation that was built on God and his forgiveness, this release time allows us to get back to this foundation. It allows us to meet the social and spiritual needs of these students beyond what is currently permissible in a public classroom.

I firmly believe that religious release time is the step we need to take to return to the most important aspect that will support education moving forward: God and education gives hope; teaching that our God provides love, forgiveness, and everlasting life amongst all of life's circumstances, if we believe in him! Why would any school not benefit from this opportunity?

I thank you for the care and time you spend on the people, children, and families that you represent in the Great State of Ohio; let's proliferate this idea that there would be mandatory time in a school day to celebrate God's love of his people and our duty to serve our neighbors.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Steve Paramore
Superintendent of The Ashland City School District