

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 Joshua Workman, and I am from Medina County.

It must be the parent's right to choose whether their children receive released time religious instruction, but local law currently gives the school the power to deny that right.

My wife and I have fortunately been able to send our children to private school to receive religious instruction, but this is not an option for all families. All parents should have the option for their children to attend these programs centered in character development which can help students improve their behavior, boost their academic performance and benefit their mental health like we have seen in neighboring communities.

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

Sincerely,

Joshua Workman