

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Marilyn Metcalf

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 Marilyn Metcalf, and I am from Franklin County.

The choice for release time religious courses should be left to the parents to decide if their student will attend or not. The board of education should not have the power to deny parents who want religious courses for their children. This is a character-building program which I have observed. It can change children because of the moral character traits which they learn, observe, and practice which will make them into better citizens and build stronger family relationships. If my child were denied LifeWise because of a school board's decision to not give me as a parent a choice for my child-this would not be acceptable.

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

Sincerely,

Marilyn Metcalf