

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Martha Hecock

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 HB 445. My name is Martha Hecock and I'm from Lorain County.

Over the past few years, I've heard parents saying they want release time for religious instruction for their children. Having this opportunity during the school day is important as there are so many activities the students are in after school that would make it difficult to include this instruction into their schedules.

Since our parents are our taxpayers, we need to listen to their requests and try to accommodate them. I understand there are school districts which make it difficult for time release. Actually the district that I'm involved in, New London Local School District, has been very accommodating and helpful with cooperating with time release for religious education. These students do not have work to make up as it is planned during their 'specials'.

We are all for building character qualities into our kids and have found a positive impact of religious classes on student behavior, creative thinking, and attendance.

I appreciate the opportunity to advocate for HB 445.

Sincerely,

Martha Hecock