

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Ron Fragapane

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 Ron Fragapane and I am from Cuyahoga County.

I am in support of HB 445.

The metrics are clear:

- Public school parents increasingly want released time religious instruction courses for their children.
 - A 2024 national poll by RMG Research found that 76% of voters favor teaching public school students moral and character education.
- Released time religious courses have a measurable **positive impact** on students and schools.
 - Decades of research have shown the positive impact of religious instruction on student behavior, academics and mental health.
 - A recent **Independent Study** schools served by LifeWise Academy conducted by Thomas P. Miller and Associates found several including improved attendance and behavior.
- Giving parents the ultimate choice is the right thing to do.
 - Parents know what is best for their children. They should get to decide whether to include religious education in their student's schedule.

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." - John Adams

Public schools are introducing concepts such as CRT and Gender Fluidity to our children. Are those not types of religion?; ***"A particular system of faith and worship"***. And in my opinion, a RTRI program is wholly essential for the continuation of our Representative Republic.

There are factions that demand “Choice’ when it comes to the life of an unborn child. Let’s demand “Choice” for our students to be allowed to opt into RTRI if they and their parents choose that option.

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

Sincerely,

Ron Fragapane