

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Sherry Rittenhouse

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 Sherry Rittenhouse and I am from Warren County.

I believe we need HB445 so parents in Ohio will have the right to choose religious education for their children during school hours. Many families in Ohio are not able to utilize religious private school or homeschool options and would have access to religious instruction for their children if this bill was passed.

I have had the privilege of teaching students through Lifewise Academy in one Warren County school district this past school year and have personally witnessed the positive impact religious instruction made in student's attitudes, maturity, behavior, and character. On our last day together this year, 100% of the students told me how much they loved Lifewise and that they were looking forward to attending class next school year.

It is my prayer that all Ohio students will have the same opportunity to enjoy release time religious instruction during school hours.

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

Sincerely,

Sherry Rittenhouse