

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

My name is Anna Gehres. I am a lifelong citizen of Ohio and a proud parent of two children who attend public schools. I care deeply about education – not just my own children’s but all the children of Ohio. I am a public educator myself and a daughter of a high school teacher.

I have concerns about HB 445 which I will outline here for your consideration:

- Burden on school districts: Our amazing teachers already are tapped to their max potential. By placing this additional legislative requirement on to our districts, we will be additionally burdening both teachers and staff to accommodate disruptions in the school day. Schools with RTRI report challenges with managing these programs including getting students out/into classes, providing lunches, ensuring safety, etc.
- Taking power away from local school districts: This bill would take away the power of local school districts, governed by elected school boards, to decide what is right for their own school district. It places a mandate on school districts that takes away from the ideals of local governance.

I first learned about RTRI when my children were sent home from school a brochure and candy from a local group utilizing RTRI. Even though I practice my faith regularly, as a parent I was shocked to learn that this was occurring during school hours. I will be addressing this with my local school board.

I hope you will thoughtfully consider the burden this mandate would cause on school districts. By rejecting this bill, you will allow school districts the opportunity to decide if RTRI is appropriate for their school district.

I will close with my faith. I practice my faith on Sunday mornings where I volunteer my time and knowledge to provide free medical care to underserved populations. I am called to do this, but I do it on my own time.

Thank you, Chairman Manning, and members of the committee, for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 445.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Most respectfully,

**Anna Gehres, PharmD, RPh, BCACP**  
Associate Professor - Practice