

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: Nov 8, 2024

Name: Jeanne Pritchard

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Retired teacher

Address: 42 High Point Dr. Unit 21

City: Medina State: OH Zip: 44256

Best Contact Telephone: 330 242 3149 Email: scootgolf6@yahoo.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes NO

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 445

Specific Issue: Allowing students to be pulled from class for religious education

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes NO

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 0 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online

Religious education has no place during the school day. In the constitution there is a separation of church and state. Allowing students to leave during the school day will not be as easy as groups have explained. There is the checking out of the classroom and building which uses teacher time and

secretary time taking them away from the students not participating. Then upon their return it is the same process, but reversed. Also, if students miss lunch who is going to feed them. If you read the newspaper you would see that Westerville schools have stopped allowing students to go by declaring every class a graded class. Revere School District is adopting similar policies. Parents/teachers concerns are many and include: lost class time when religious education runs late, BCI and FBI checks for all volunteers who run the classes, bus drivers - are they certified to drive a bus, what if a child becomes ill when in the religious class, will there be epi-pens, defibulator, a nurse, will snacks be given and will they include peanuts, if meals are served will they meet the proper requirements for nutrition and finally who is liable if something happens to a child. When signing the form to allow your child to attend class you release the religious group from any/all liability so would that now fall to a school district? The other main concern is that these religious groups REFUSE release their curriculum. Will their teachings be targeting LBGTQ+ groups, minorities, abortion activists? When they return to the school building will they come with treats to entice other students to come? I can answer that one - yes. Currently this bill is really about Lifewise. My question to you would be this - would this have ever been considered if the group was Muslim? How about Hindu, Buddhist, Islam, Sikhism or Judaism? It is doubtful that this bill would have made it to the hearing room. Governor Dewine has said that cell phones are an issue because it takes a child 20-50 minutes to get back on track, how much time will it take for students removed from the classroom for religious learning take to get back on track hyped up on sugar? Based on talking with teachers who deal with this students do miss core classes and while the law states that the make up rests with the child do you really think that parents won't expect the "teacher" to assist or stay after school to help their child? If this is "real" religious training it needs to be done after school or on weekends and there should be no charge to the family. I have not spoken to one minister or priest that is in favor of this piece of legislation. What is worse is that our Lt. Governor Hustad is going around supporting it - do your job. Finally, school districts can adopt policies to block this, but again this is something the state legislature should stay out of and let parents guide religious training with their church.

