

**Opponent Testimony for H.B. 445**  
**Primary and Secondary Education Committee**  
**November 12, 2024**

**Reverend Frankie Taylor**

Respectfully addressing Chair Gayle Manning, Vice Chair Sarah Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Phillip M. Robinson, Jr., and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Reverend Taylor. I am writing to express my opposition to [HB 445](#), which seeks to alter the well-established system of Released Time Religious Instruction (RTRI) by changing the permissive “may” to “shall” in Section [3313.6022](#) of the Ohio Revised Code. I believe this change will inevitably cause conflict and ultimately make it more difficult to effectively spread the word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I urge you to oppose this legislation for one key reason: the schools should not be battlegrounds for the time, attention and souls of our nation's youth.

If every school district is forced to accommodate all RTRI programs it will only be a matter of time before half a dozen different programs are fighting for attendance and all teaching different unregulated worldviews. I wonder if the committee has considered a future in which kids are being pulled out of class to learn about the flying spaghetti monster. How would the committee feel if a religious organization starting coming into schools trying to convert children into suicide bombers? Or perhaps telling them polygamy is acceptable? What teenage boy wouldn't sign up for that class? You're creating an open market that will lead to nothing short of children being targeted by Scientologists, Satanists and every other imaginable fringe version of extreme religion.

The Gospel is something that requires thoughtful discussion. Those discussions should be left to families and the religious leaders they trust, not incorporated into the public school day. This open market will diminish our ability to effectively shepherd God's children back to him by creating unnecessary competition. There are entirely too many conflicting faiths, belief structures, and values to allow schools to be an open market for religious conversion. This is not how we grow the flock.

I appreciate the committee's time and attention. I hope you will consider the bigger picture and the implications of what is being discussed here.

God Bless,  
Rev. Frankie Taylor.