

Opponent Testimony for HB 445

Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

November 12, 2024

Testimony from: Denise M. Lee, CPA, Ohio Business Owner, Senior Lecturer of Entrepreneurship at Kent State University, and Medina County Resident

Chair Gayle Manning, Vice Chair Sarah Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Phil Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Denise Lee. I am a resident of Medina County, an Ohio CPA, an Ohio business owner, and a senior lecturer of entrepreneurship at Kent State University. As an individual with 16 years of experience teaching at multiple Ohio universities, I am writing to oppose HB 445 and ask that it be permanently removed from the committee agenda.

*As a college instructor, I deal with many students who show up unprepared for the rigors of college. The problem has only worsened over the years. I am opposed to HB 445 because allowing students to be pulled out of school in the middle of the school day reduces the instruction time our students desperately need for specialized subjects like library and digital media. Also, the process of leaving and returning to school in the middle of the day will be unsettling to many students and serve as a distraction from learning for others. Again, this is quite unhelpful to students needing to focus more – not less – on learning.*

*If we want our young people to be competitive in the job market, our young people need a strong K-12 education. The reduction in instruction time and the disruption to the school day that will be created by allowing students to be pulled out of school midday will erode the quality of Ohio's K-12 education system. HB 445 is a step in the wrong direction for Ohio schools.*

I ask that you please consider this testimony from a concerned Ohio educator and vote no on HB445.

Thank you for considering this testimony.