

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 11/10/2024

Name: Brittany Hulbert

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 476 Liberty Lane

City: Westerville State: OH Zip: 43081

Best Contact Telephone: 216-394-4843 Email: bhulbert128@gmail.com

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

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): 445

Specific Issue: Regards school policies for release for religious instruction

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 min

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I oppose HB 445 and urge the House Committee to vote NO on this.

*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.*

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

Dear Representative Gale Manning:

I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 445 and to urge you to vote NO on this bill. My name is Brittany Hulbert. I am a parent living in central Ohio, a product of Ohio's public schools, and a graduate of The Ohio State University. As a dedicated advocate for education, both for my family and for all Ohio children, I believe H.B. 445 threatens the quality and autonomy of our state's public education system.

It is in the best interest of our students to uphold the current legislation, which protects local governance. School districts should retain the freedom to decide for themselves whether to allow Release Time for Religious Instruction (RTRI) based on their unique community needs and values. H.B. 445 would take away that local choice, imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate across the state.

Mandating an RTRI policy for all school districts disregards each district's unique needs and disrupts the educational environment. For Ohio to continue thriving as a leader in workforce innovation and economic stability, public education must remain strong and undisturbed. Requiring districts to accommodate non-educational, third-party organizations during school hours undermines our schools' focus and threatens the quality of education that is essential to Ohio's future success.

The existing law on this matter honors the independence of our districts and minimizes unnecessary state interference. By voting "no" on H.B. 445, you will be supporting local control and allowing communities to make their own decisions based on what's best for them. I strongly urge you to support Ohio's school districts and freedom by voting "no" on H.B. 445.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

*Brittany Hulbert*

Brittany Hulbert