

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 2024-11-11

Name: Madison Morgan

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Engineer

Address: 1536 Ruth Ave

City: Cuyahoga Falls State: OH Zip: 44221

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: madhatter8191@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): HB 445

Specific Issue: School release policies for religious instruction

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person Written-Only

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? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I have concerns about House Bill 445 and its effects on our communities. I urge you to remove this bill from the committee agenda.

Section 3313.6022 already allows a school district to adopt a plan for excusing students from the classroom for religious reasons. Please leave this decision up to the public school elected board of education officials in each district. Changing the verbiage from "may" to "shall", mandating this policy in schools, requires more resources that could otherwise be used for overall education. Families and students may have personal religious beliefs and activities, but that should not cut into the school day that is structured for all students. Students partaking in this excused time may fall behind and not be able to make up important learning material. Break time like lunch/recess/study hall, is an appropriate time for a student to study religious material, all of which do not cut into the structured classroom studies of a typical school day.

For these reasons, I ask that you stop this bill from receiving any additional hearings.

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.