

**Opponent Testimony for H.B. 445**  
**Primary and Secondary Education Committee**  
**November 11, 2024**

**Trinity Lescallett**

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 carefully reading and considering my statement. My name is Trinity Lescallett. I am a teacher in Tiffin, Ohio. 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 unnecessary bill threatens the autonomy of local school boards and undermines constitutional principles.

The governing power over educational policies should remain with locally elected school boards. These boards are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs of their communities. I have already reached out to all of my local school board members regarding my concerns with RTRI. I trust them to make the decisions that are best for our students and community. These decisions should not be made by politicians – most of whom have no experience working in the public school system.

Please consider my testimony and oppose H.B. 445. Please leave important decisions about when to adopt policy to the local school boards.

Sincerely,  
Trinity Lescallett