

Opponent Testimony for HB 445

Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

November 11, 2024

Testimony from: Bryce Easterling, Student at Stark State, Air Force Veteran 6+ years with Honorable Discharge, Summit 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 letting me testify today. My name is Bryce Easterling. I'm currently attending Stark State to get a degree in Animation. I'm here to oppose HB455 as I believe it will be a negative to the educational experience to those affected.

Education is arguably the most important factor to the growth of a society. A proper education allows people to utilize critical thinking skills to understand and solve problems. Those with a good education will be able to be gainfully employed, provide for themselves, and carve out their futures. Understanding the world around you is extremely important for a functioning society to persist and stamp out poor ideas. One of the most important parts of my job in the Air Force was understanding what adversaries were capable of and how to defend against them. In order to do that, you need trained and well-educated individuals who have the skills to fulfil the roles of defenders. This policy could negatively impact the ability of those who would get pulled out of schools to secure a better future.

It cannot be overstated how important it is for a student to be properly educated in order to succeed in our job market. Those with a college degree are far more likely to succeed than those who do not. An educated military is essential to preserving our society. Kids being pulled out for religious instruction during class could greatly negatively impact their ability to acquire the skills learned in class for a successful future.

Please consider this testimony from a college student and veteran and vote no on HB455.

Thank you for considering this testimony.