

November 10, 2024

Pamela Troendly
3358 Spring Valley Rd.
Akron, OH 44333

Dear Committee Chair Manning & members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on HB 445. I am a resident of Bath Township near Akron, OH. Prior to living in Bath, I lived for many years in Firestone Park in Akron, OH. As such, I have provided direct support to both Akron City Schools and Revere Schools in the form of property taxes and indirectly in the form of state and local income taxes. I am now retired but worked for 40+ years as an IT professional in both manufacturing and health care.

I am writing to express opposition to the change contained in HB 445 which would mandate that Ohio school districts adopt a policy authorizing students to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction. Currently local property taxes are a primary source of funding for many of Ohio's school districts. This is the case in the Revere School District. With local responsibility should come local control. The local community should make the decision to adopt the release policy or not. It should not be a mandate from the state.

Many communities may conclude that the greater good will come from maximizing the time that students spend learning, and that there are ample opportunities for participation with local faith institutions outside of public education time.

I urge you to vote against HB 445 and continue to allow local communities and parents to make the best decisions for the children and our future.

Sincerely,

Pamela Troendly