

Dear Committee,

As a parent and taxpayer I am against permitting the one word language change in HB 445. This issue is something that can be addressed by the district if the community requests a policy or policy change. Our community has not requested this.

It has been my experience, as a parent and volunteer in the elementary buildings, that the students leaving and returning to the classroom is disruptive to instruction and causes behavior issues. The RTRI guidelines indicate that this will not impact the classroom or building staff and I have found this to be impossible. Below are examples of how the building staff are impacted:

1. Due to safety concerns: The building staff has to gather up the students to check them out - as well as be available to sign them back in. The permissions slips that parents sign have been problematic regarding who is RESPONSIBLE for transporting a student to an off campus location. Are the staff members of the religious program BCI background checked and who manages that system?
2. The students return to the buildings bragging about playing games and earning candy treats. For a young learner in our elementary schools- this adds pressure to participate.
3. The programs - while separate from the school District- have been known to send home fliers through the student backpacks. Again- this is work for the school staff that isn't meant to happen. This creates confusion about District support of a program that is divisive and carries religious ideology that is exclusionary. LifeWise's stance on the LGBTQ community is clear.

School is meant to be a safe place for all children in our community to grow and learn. Schools are not intended to be a gathering place for a religious entity to harvest the "unchurched" Parents have other options for religious instruction if that is what they truly want, without disrupting the education of others.

Allowing these disruptions is counter to that mission.

Laura Mullen