

Gabe Guidarini - House Bill 486 Testimony, Tuesday, November 4th, 2025

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of Ohio House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 486, the *Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act*. My name is Gabe Guidarini, and I serve as Chairman of the Ohio College Republican Federation, representing several thousand student members across our state's college campuses and universities.

As young Ohioans engaged in civic life, we believe that understanding our nation's moral and historical foundations is essential to sustaining a free and responsible citizenry. The *Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act* honors this principle by empowering educators, without mandating them, to teach about the positive influence of religion, especially Christianity, on American history, culture, and governance.

This bill does not impose a belief system, it simply allows teachers and professors to include historical truths that have too often been neglected—how faith shaped the resolve of the pilgrims, guided our Founders' convictions, inspired movements that provided us the liberties we enjoy today, and informed the moral fabric that has bound our republic together since its birth. From Washington's farewell address to the sermons we hear today, religion's imprint on our shared story is undeniable. Acknowledging that influence is not forcing it on students, rather, it's teaching history honestly.

On campuses today, many students encounter hostility or silence when faith intersects with history or public life. This legislation gives academic freedom back to educators and students who wish to study these ideas openly and truthfully. It ensures that our classrooms remain places of inquiry—not censorship—where the moral and intellectual inheritance of our nation can be understood in full.

I commend Representative Click for his leadership and moral clarity. His legislation reflects the conviction that liberty is best preserved when grounded in virtue and knowledge—principles echoed in Ohio's own Constitution and in the Northwest Ordinance that declared, "*Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind...*"

On behalf of the Ohio College Republican Federation and the thousands of students we represent, I urge this committee to advance H.B. 486. By doing so, you'd affirm not only the academic integrity of our education system but also the cultural and moral heritage that continues to inspire millions of Ohioans.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony on House Bill 486. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.