

**Clyde M. Hughes**

May 30, 2024

Honorable Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Floor 11  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 445 Testimony

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 445. My name is Clyde Hughes and I am from Madison County. I am a father of eight, grandfather or great-grandfather of 21. I am also a retired minister, a veteran and member of the Madison County Central Committee.

In his Farewell Address in 1796, George Washington told the people, "Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports." In the Northwest Ordinance we read, "Religion, Morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, Schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged."

However; in 1962 and 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court removed the basis for morality, prayer and Bible reading from public schools. Since then, we have seen grave consequences. Where in any part of society do we have a basis for morality but in God.

Since those days, we have seen:

- \* Unwed pregnancies increase 553%
- \* Divorce increase to make America the leading nation in that category
- \* Single motherhood, the premier indicator of poverty and crime, up by 140%
- \* Unmarried households up by 536%
- \* SAT scores have plummeted every year since
- \* Young black homicides up 50%

If schools are forbidden to teach the basis for morality, please allow released time to bring back our children! We need HB 445! Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Clyde M. Hughes, D.D.