

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 Joyce C. Dorsey and I am from Franklin County.

I believe release time religious education should be available in all school districts so that all parents have the opportunity to either allow their children to participate or not. It is equal opportunity at its finest and the freedom for the parent to have final say.

The program has been shown to have a positive impact on students. It costs the school districts nothing. It sounds like the best thing we have going in our public schools today. I do not understand the mindset of school district officials that would refuse to allow parents to decide this for their children.

Therefor it is important that “may” be changed to “shall” to provide all parents with the opportunity to decide if release time religious education is something they would like their child to experience.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for House Bill 445.

Sincerely,

Joyce C. Dorsey