

HB 445 Proponent Testimony
Kimberly A. Roush

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 445. My name is Kimberly A. Roush and I am from Franklin County.

I am a teacher for Lifewise Academy in a Franklin County school district. I have been witness to the positive results of children having the opportunity to participate in released time religious instruction. The children in this program are taught in a safe, relaxed, non-threatening environment. They have the opportunity to learn character traits such as kindness, love, respect, and many more personality traits, which they can adapt to their relationships with their friends and families. We have heard positive reports from teachers and parents on the improved behaviors and attitudes of the children in our program.

Many children are not able to attend a religious service of their choice when it is offered on weekends. Time released religious instruction gives the children a chance to learn their faith at a more convenient time during the day, when transportation is provided by the religious facility. Many parents at the program I am involved with do not have transportation for the children after school. Having the child transported from school during the day is convenient for the parents. It allows the children to receive important training they otherwise could not receive during after school hours.

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

Sincerely, Kimberly A. Roush