

May 30,2024

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 Patsy Reynolds, and I am from Fairfield County. I presently have to honor to serve as the Program Director for the Bloom Carroll LifeWise Program. I began this journey as a participant in a LifeWise informational meeting in the Fall of 2022. My heart was moved to serve in a program that provided Bible-based learning to students. We were able to roll out the Bloom Carroll LifeWise program in the Fall of 2023 for grades 3rd-5th. In February of 2024 we took on another step of growth by adding grades 6th-8th and will begin serving grades 1st-2nd in the Fall of 2024. I can tell you from a personal perspective that this Program is touching the students' lives. I have watched my own grandchildren who range from grades 4th-7th grow their faith in ways that would not have been available to them without the opportunity for their parents to choose to enroll them in a released time religious instruction program. Parents know what is best for their own children. Bloom Carroll's parents are enrolling and supporting the Bloom Carroll LifeWise Program and this is reflected in the 277 students enrolled to date.

The Carroll community has supported and blessed the LifeWise Program. Bloom Carroll Local Schools have welcomed LifeWise as Lifewise works in collaboration with them to extend this much needed program to the students in Carroll, Ohio. My prayer is that House Bill 445 brings about change which will not just allow students in ALL communities to have access to religious education in public schools but will honor the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for this opportunity to advocate for House Bill 445.

Sincerely,

Patsy Reynolds