

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 Quimey Brown and I am from Ashland County.

I am a proponent of House Bill 445 because I am a firm believer in the freedom that our forefathers who founded this country fought for and rooted our constitution in. This bill will enable parents to be the ultimate decision makers over their children's education, not the school board. As much as institutions can strive for neutrality, they are made of people with diverse outlooks and opinions over what is best or most important for the students of certain communities. At the end of the day, the parents and legal guardians are the citizens, the voters and the authorities over those children and they should be the ones entrusted with the responsibility, the option, the opportunity to decide whether the students participate in Released Time Religious Instruction or not. The community interest should prevail over the school boards in Ohio, since we call ourselves a democracy. This is a great platform to see it on display.

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

Sincerely, Quimey Brown