

HB 445 Proponent Testimony  
Richard Metzler

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 Richard Metzler and I am from Fairfield County.

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 445. Allowing parents the option to choose released time religious instruction for their children in public schools is vital for well-rounded character development. This form of instruction provides children with biblically based moral and ethical teachings, which can enhance the education they receive in school. Integrating these values helps children develop a strong sense of right and wrong, empowering them to make ethical decisions and build personal character.

Moreover, offering released time religious instruction respects parents' rights to guide their children's moral and spiritual development. This choice enables parents to align their children's education with their own beliefs and values, ensuring a consistency with home and school which is vital to the child's growth and development.

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

Sincerely,

Richard Metzler