



Representative Roy Klopfenstein

82nd House District

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 468.

This legislation requires schools to allow patriotic organizations, as listed in U.S. Title 36, the opportunity to present information about their activities at least once per academic year. U.S. Title 36 is a section of Federal Law that covers patriotic and national organizations including groups like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, Civil Air Patrol, and Boys and Girls Club of America, to name a few. It is important to know that it is at the discretion of the school to determine when, where and for how long the organizations can present.

These organization are pivotal to enriching the lives of our children through imparting civic and moral values, fostering robust leadership skills, and promoting personal development. However, with how busy all our lives have gotten over the years they are faced issues with recruitment, notably the Boy Scouts report a 90% decrease in membership when they lack access to students in schools. Similar legislation has already been enacted in 14 other states and has proven to effective without placing a significant burden on the school.

Furthermore, this legislation will ease a current burden on our educators because as my joint sponsor will attest, there are many groups that want to be able to meet with students and having teachers sift through and vet each organization adds to their already busy schedules.

I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time, and I will pass things over to my joint sponsor, Representative Brennan.