

Sandra Kersey

May 29, 2024

Ohio House Judicial Committee

Attention: Gary Click

77 S. High St.

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear 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 Sandra Kersey and I live in Medina County.

I was blessed to grow up in a time when we opened every morning over the loud speaker with a scripture verse and a prayer in my public school from K-12. The character development, respect, kindness and grace towards others as well as myself have served me and my school mates well over the years. I'm not sure where I'd be right now without the teaching and instruction I was so blessed to have been exposed to.

Witnessing the slow fade and removal of such exposure has been of great concern. In both society and our own children, the removal of such exposures in their every day lives has resulted in the witnessing of a sad state of affairs, from severe anxiety, depression, compromised work ethics, a victim mentality and so many attributes that not only go against the way they were raised, but are not serving them well in their adult lives.

You see, we were taught the value of taking personal responsibility as being a sign of maturity, right of passage, and led to positive outcomes in our own personal mindsets, outlooks and success in life.

As a certified life coach, what we are seeing is alarming. LifeWise Academy, I've found, aligns with and supports the instilling of positive traits that lend themselves toward personal growth, happy, grounded, well rounded, successful individuals who become

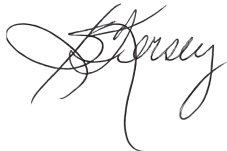
contributors to local communities and a prosperous society. Not only that, but we've seen increases in attendance, a decrease in tardies, grades improve, and improvements in teacher/student relationships and interactions and that among student to student improvements and so much more.

Upon attending a LifeWise Academy class, I was very impressed with how organized the program is and how much fun the students were having. They covered so much in such a short time, from reading, reading comprehension, memorization, interactive, tactical skills, exercises, entertainment, etc. And the teachers were incredible! It was such a positive experience all the way around.

Since released-time programs are already legal, why not clear the path and ease the passage to allow this parent consent program to students? If a school simply allows students to leave according to parents' wishes and without public funds for this program, we are supporting parent choice, improving public school enrollment and retention, and therefore, the school and the students benefit. Ohio law not only authorizes such programs, we need such programs.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Kersey', written in black ink.

Sandra Kersey

P.S. "...Nobody gets credit for looking in the mirror. We are judged by how we respond to what we see." -Josh McDowell