

Sanford Short
HB 445 Proponent Testimony

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 Norm Karns and I am from Huron County.

I think it is extremely important that parents and not the school systems be given the choice to allow their children to participate in release time religious education. Beyond the non-denominational bible instruction, it also provides character development and sets a correct moral compass

I have the benefit of having participated in release time in the late 1950's. I have spoken highly of my experiences with this over the years. While I also attended Sunday school, the difference was I was with my classmates, and this added in some way a validation to the messages.

I live in Norwalk, which has had release time brought by Lifewise for the past two years. I was and am so excited that release time is being adopted again in so many communities and want to see it available everywhere. I am now proud to be a volunteer in the classroom.