

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 Tracy Penrose and I am from Medina County.

During the 2023-2024 school year I was a volunteer for Lifewise in the Cloverleaf school district. I had the opportunity to engage with the kids coming to classes. They looked forward to learning about Bible principles and were excited to participate in the games and group questions.

They were also able to bring what they learned home to discuss with their parents. I believe parents need to know what their children learn in school and that parents have the choice to include religious instruction.

Our school district is the poorest in the county and many parents do not have the opportunity to send their children to costly private schools. The LifeWise program should be available in all districts so that the parents can choose to include religious instruction in their childrens' education.

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

Sincerely,

Tracy Penrose