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**HB 3678 Testimony:  
Student Expression of Religious Viewpoints  
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My name is Ken McCraw. I am a retired public school superintendent and currently Executive Director of the Texas Association of Community Schools; however, today I am here representing myself.

As we know, when students come into a school they come with their family values, cultural values and religious beliefs and values. School districts have to bring that mix of values together so that students can coexist in the public schools of our state. It is important that just as we accommodate cultural diversity, we also provide a way to accommodate religious diversity. It appears that HB 3678 provides a method for managing that diversity in a manner that is fair to all children.

I know that concerns have been expressed by some over the creation of a limited forum for students. It is my understanding of this bill that it simply provides guidance from Supreme Court decisions and then offers a model policy for a limited forum should a school district decide that students are going to be provided a limited forum. Further, if a limited forum is provided, the language in the bill allows the school district to pick the topic to ensure that the student is speaking on an appropriate topic and not just any topic of the student's own choosing. This bill is an attempt to provide clarity on how to handle an issue that has been and continues to be contentious. Public schools need guidance on how to ensure that all religious beliefs are respected and that all children are treated fairly. I believe this bill provides the needed guidance to accomplish these goals. I urge you to support HB 3678.



Ken McCraw