

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 11/12/2024

Name: Sandra Jensen

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 865 Warwick Dr

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 445

Specific Issue: RTRI from "may to shall"

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 0

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

please see attached

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

I am a parent of two children, ages 27 and 24. My son is an active duty serviceman stationed at Fort Carson. He is a musician in the 4th Infantry Division Band. My daughter will soon depart for a public policy fellowship in St. Louis. **I am a school board member.** I am in my 17th year. **I am a long time member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church** in Lorain.

As a parent, I can tell you we did everything we thought we should to help our children grow into good, kind, decent adults who work hard and make a difference in the world. As a school board member, I can tell you that I know our administrators and staff work very, very hard to ensure students have meaningful curriculum. Not one minute of the school day is wasted. Art, gym, music, library and lunch were important to my kids. Scheduling of classes is an extremely challenging task! When my son was in 5th grade band, the day was so packed for a short time til the schedule was reworked, he missed about twenty minutes of MATH so he could be in band. Once students hit high school they are encouraged to take classes at our local community college. My kids were active and involved. They were so busy, they did not have time to get their driver's licenses til just before starting their senior year. As a church member, our family attended church together every week. We tried to model good citizenship in our parish. My husband Barry was head usher for 20 years, taught Sunday school for 20 years, was in the music program, was assisting minister, does sound.... I was on council til I was term limited, stewardship, support, and funeral committees, communion assistant, assistant to the financial secretary. All the while, the kids lived this life with us.

According to LifeWise's website, the company is "an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention" a fellowship of Baptist evangelical congregations in the US. They are on what seems to be a mission to take students out of their very busy school take to provide them with religious training. I need not spend time on how they seem to be implementing their programs. You can read about that online. It is my personal opinion that families should attend church together. I will tell you that little kids clearly know the difference between what they are taught in their family church and what another denomination may teach. Probably the three best personal points I can make clearly demonstrate this, and if they are in a safe, secure home environment, they will have the confidence to question this with their parents. My son was in second grade or so when a classmate's mom invited him to attend a Sunday night youth group at their church. The boys were friends as well as being on my husband's soccer team and it seemed like something they could enjoy together. We often invited non members to attend our summer vacation bible school. The friend's church was not a Lutheran congregation, but Baptist. After about the third Sunday, our son told us he did not like some of the things that were said and that it conflicted with what he had been taught at First Lutheran. He stopped attending the Sunday night youth group. When he was in sixth grade, a motivational speaker came to the school to talk with the kids. He invited them all to join him at a church in Avon that night for dodgeball. Barry took our son, assuming it would be a nice evening of kids having fun. Barry was immediately given a recruitment talk to join the church. Again, our son felt uncomfortable and told us. Our daughter has always been insightful and questioning. From the time she could read, she would follow along in our church bulletin readings. If she had a pencil, she would circle things that bothered her or pass a note down the pew. If she didn't have something to write with, we'd get an elbow to our ribs followed by a finger pointing at

the reading. Kids know what feels wrong to them. As I understand it, LifeWise "recruits" students through peers already enrolled in the program. Kids like to be with their friends. As I see it, there is a core group of parents who already believe in the teachings of LifeWise and want them to attend day time programming. This frees up their Sundays for youth baseball and soccer!! There is also a group of parents who feel guilty for not attending church, so here is a way to work through that. There is a group of parents who just don't care what their kids do.

As a school board member, I will reiterate that our days are FULL of meaningful programming. As a parent, I will reiterate that if a child is NOT in a safe, secure home environment, they will not have the confidence to speak out if they don't feel good about something. The tactics of LifeWise seem to be such that children will be in situations where they do not feel comfortable but won't speak up.

I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO VISIT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND SEE JUST HOW BUSY IT IS IN A NORMAL DAY. GAYLE MANNING KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

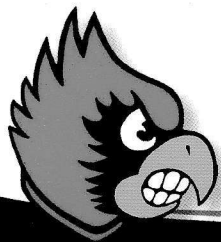
Do not allow HB 445 to be passed into law. IT IS DISTRUPTIVE TO THE SCHOOL DAY AND YOU ARE PUTTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION

KEEP MAY AND DO NOT AMEND TO SHALL

Respectfully yours,



Sandra Jensen



Sandra Jensen
Board Member

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