

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 293. My name is Ruth To and I am from Van Wert County.

Parents should be given the ultimate say when it comes to their child's education. Senate Bill 293 is important because it gives parents the ultimate choice as to whether their children attend Bible education classes during school hours.

Passing SB 293 during this legislative session would allow Ohio to empower parents and enhance students' education. Decades of research indicate that religious instruction positively affects student behavior, academic performance, and mental health. It's time for Ohio to ensure that parental choice, rather than school administrators, governs access to released time for religious instruction.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for Senate Bill 293.

Sincerely,
Ruth To