

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 Marlee Matthews and I am from Erie County.

I have been attending our Community Life Wise for 2 years now. This has positively impacted my life in so many ways! I am so grateful for the opportunity & I continue to see the positive impacts on my Classmates/friends each week. I have become more involved in Community Outreaches, along with my Classmates/friends through this great opportunity. We are making a positive impact on our Community, along with great & lasting friendships.

It greatly hurts my heart to see other Communities struggling to have the same opportunity. I have close friends, just 1 Community over that desperately wants time-released religious instruction available for their Communities, but it is being stopped for reasons out of the family's control.

I believe strongly that Senate Bill 293, putting the choice in the parents hands, not school administrators, will help our friends & other, less fortunate communities to have the amazing opportunity that I am so grateful to have!

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

Sincerely, Marlee Matthews