

“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 Lisa R. Aeschliman. I am from Fulton County. The reason for my email is to urge you to support and pass SB293.

The right for students to be released from school for religious education is critical to the moral development of our future citizens. This released time is not mandated for all students but it is a freedom that parents can choose for their children. In America, the freedom of choice is highly valued. Having this option available for children will be beneficial to all communities.

I am a retired school teacher. After teaching in the public schools for 34 years, I can testify that our students are in need of the benefits that this bill will afford. Students are a product of our society and it is clear that the majority of the society is not adhering to the character traits that were once taught in homes. Senate Bill 293 will give students the opportunity to learn about these character traits as taught in religious education.

Since my retirement, I have been given the undeserved privilege of working with LifeWise Academy. This is made possible due to the release time for religious education. I am so hopeful that this freedom can be protected by legislature. Students attending LifeWise Academy are showing improvement in behavior on a daily basis. I am certain that this will positively affect the school and community.

Please do everything possible to protect this freedom for children, schools, communities and the state of Ohio.

Thank you for your work for the good of the future of Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Aeschliman
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