

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 Jacob Gilliam and I am from Marion County.

As an Ohio parent of three boys, I believe that I should be able to choose if my child participates in release time education or not. It should not be up to the school officials to determine what is right for my child. I should have the ability to allow my child the release time religious instruction that used to be very common in our schools as should other parents. To see what happened in Westerville schools where around 300 children lost their right to attend religious release time education when the school board repealed the ability for LifeWise to be an option for the students and parents is, honestly appalling. That decision should be up to the parents, not the school board. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for senate bill 293.

Sincerely, Jacob D. Gilliam