

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 Kurt Snedecor and I am from Delaware County.

I support Senate Bill 293. The opportunity for parents to choose released time for religious instruction for their children in public schools is vital for fostering comprehensive character education. This form of instruction allows children to receive moral and ethical teachings grounded in the Bible, which can complement the education they receive. By integrating these values, children can develop a well-rounded sense of right and wrong, enhancing their ability to make ethical decisions and build strong personal character.

Furthermore, providing parents with the option of release time for religious instruction respects their right to guide their children's moral and spiritual development. This choice empowers parents to align their children's education with their personal beliefs and values, fostering a sense of continuity and coherence between home and school environments. It ensures that the foundational aspects of a child's upbringing are not overlooked in their educational journey, promoting a more holistic approach to learning and personal growth.

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

Sincerely,

Kurt Snedecor