

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 Elizabeth Newfer and I am from Hardin County.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to send my son to learn about our religion under released time through the day. It is extremely important to my family that we continue to be able to exercise this to continue his growth. It comforts me to know that he is able to learn these things even while away from me.

Knowing that my children have the ability to be a part of released time while also getting everything they need educationally is a great privilege. It is so nice that they are able to learn about all of the important things they need to grow intelligently and creatively at school and on the same day, during school hours they are also able to grow spiritually.

As a parent, having a right and a say in what my kids are allowed to be involved in during school hours is an enormous privilege. I am grateful that I can allow my son to be involved in a program under released time and that he can continue his day in positivity after learning something that is so important to him. We want to be able to continue to support him and kids that share his and our values by allowing them to continue in released time programs as long as their parents approve.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Newfer