

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on Senate Bill 293. My name is Paula Schaffner and I live in Fulton County.

I am a Board Member and volunteer for Lifewise in Fayette, OH. I would like to see Bill 293 brought before the Senate and passed. I have seen the changes in lives of children who attend our Lifewise Program. It is amazing to see them run into the building eager to hear God's Word and be part of our program.

All this is possible because parents have been given the choice to send their children by our Fayette School System. However, there are systems in our state who will not allow this and I am sure you know of the school that closed down the Lifewise program even though parents in the district objected loudly. I do not want that type of action to take place in any other district. I also want school districts to be open to the ability of parents choosing to have their children leave the district for one period a week for religious instruction.

Please act as soon as possible to bring Bill 293 to the floor so it can be passed in the Senate and then brought before the entire legislative body.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to Bill 293.

Paula Schaffner