

Senator Andrew Brenner
Committee Chair

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 Kristy Cutarelli and I am from Darke County.

Released time programs are under attack. Radical activists are working to take Bible-based character education away from Ohio students. Senate Bill 293 gives parents, not school administrators, the ultimate choice as to whether their children attend Bible education classes during school hours. Help protect parental rights. We need your urgent help to keep this bill moving forward.

My husband and I have been supporting Life Wise in our county since it was initiated in our area over 3 years ago. Since I was still working back then our support was mainly monetary, but since I retired, we have been walking children from our city's elementary school to a newly constructed building just off the school property. It takes about 4 minutes to walk the kids each way. During this walk the kids often initiate a conversation and we get a chance to talk one-on-one and get to know them a little. It has been surprising to us, at times, what they share with us. It's also been amazing to watch the difference Life Wise makes in their lives. We have watched the transformation of attitudes and behavior in these kids. It's always positive. We have heard the same from school authorities and teachers. This time spent learning character building and study has been very beneficial to these children and will continue to benefit them throughout their lives. Along with learning about God they are learning how to be a good neighbor and a decent member of society.

I have attached a witness statement as well as a list and FAQ sheet discussing why Ohio needs SB 293 passed. I truly hope you will consider this bill. The children are the future of our nation and they need our, yours and my help to make our future great.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kristy A. Cutarelli", is displayed on a light pink rectangular background.

Kristy A. Cutarelli

1185 Parkway Dr
Greenville, OH 45331