

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 Rachel Clapsaddle and I am from Paulding county.

As a mother, teacher's wife, community member and Lifewise supporter, I testify to the importance of having the Lifewise program available for parents to choose for their children to attend. It has been my experience that families are at a crossroads in time when they need and appreciate the support a program like Lifewise can provide to them. Parents are grateful for the support to instill in their children basic character education and core values which will help them to understand and learn basic relationship skills ultimately setting them up for success in the future to be able to make educated choices concerning their behavior and then therefore making them positive citizens in our community. From my experience in raising my children it would have been such a help to have "the Lifewise village" assisting me to reinforce these qualities. As a teacher's wife I have seen the decline of character in children. I am saddened by it because in so many of the cases the children do not know anything different and are just following the only thing they know. Lifewise provides hope for positive futures for these students and communities and hope for parents who are drowning in the difficulty raising them without support. As a Lifewise volunteer and community member the impact is being noticed in positive character being displayed with hopeful outlooks.

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

Sincerely,
Rachel Clapsaddle