

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 Lori Herron and I am from Franklin County.

I am writing to you about the importance of release time instruction and the positive impact it is having on our young people, their families, and our communities in general. LifeWise has created such positive momentum throughout our communities. LifeWise is helping to change our culture from one of bullying to one of spreading kindness. I'm sure the statistics have been shared with you.

Opponents are scared for no good reason and ruthless activists are attempting to generate false narratives about LifeWise and release time instruction. Please don't believe their foolishness.

The LifeWise program is rapidly growing because parents want the choice for their kids. Some parents are unable to attend church services with their kids on the weekends because of job schedules or other responsibilities. Release time instruction gives them another option. It is their decision whether or not to sign their kids up for a program.

My 2 boys are in their early twenties, one is married and will soon be a father. I want my kids to have a choice whether or not to send their kids to LifeWise (or another release time program) or not. I don't want easily intimidated elected school board members to take that choice away from my kids or other parents in the state of Ohio.

I implore you to pass Ohio's Senate Bill 293 for release time instruction. Give parents the choice.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for SB 293.