

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 Keith Risner and I am from Butler County.

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 293. Parents ought to have the choice of whether or not their children should be able to attend Religious Instruction during the school day. Since it is presently a matter of choice, especially those districts that have Lifewise Academy, it seems fairly obvious that many parents have chosen this character based Bible education content that Lifewise provides.

Most public school districts in my area have made it a priority to add character education into their curriculum. Lifewise supplements these efforts by providing a foundation and role models for such character traits in the pages of the Bible. This is a great plus! These are ancient truths still applicable and appreciated by those who study them.

Finally, the primary responsibility for every child's education lies with the parents of said children. Though educators have had to step in and assist more directly in character education because of the many parents who have shirked their responsibility, it is the responsibility primarily of the parents. To weaken and undermines this concept sows the seeds of greater irresponsibility in raising children and will contribute to lowering test scores, reading levels, mental health issues in the public schools.

Thank you for the honor of sharing with you the importance of Senate Bill 293.
Sincerely,
Keith Risner