

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 Rhonda Pees and I am from Hardin County.

I have been part of the LifeWise program as a member of my local community's fundraising committee since its beginning in our school system. I have marveled at the success of the program in our local school district, and those surrounding us. Our school has a very high percentage of eligible kids in the program, and that has been maintained, and has grown.

This is a clear indicator to me of the need and want for the LifeWise program, and a clear sign our youth are seeking God. There is no other program like it. Its reach and opportunity to impact young lives and allow kids to hear the Gospel for perhaps the first and only time in their lives is invaluable.

Parents are quickly losing control over their local school systems, and the ability to guide the education of their children. Requiring all Ohio schools to allow Bible-based education release time will ensure this amazing program, and others like it, will reach our youth with the Gospel, and set them on a path they may never find otherwise. Senate Bill 293 will provide parents the backing they need to ensure this happens.

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

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