

“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 Cynthia Farber and I am from Franklin County.

I am concerned for the wellbeing of public-school children. As a parent and a grandparent, I have great concern when I hear that a school official has more rights to determine a child’s educational choices than their parents. We, as a society are losing sight of our basic freedoms when we start thinking teachers or other officials have rights to children and decisions surrounding them over their own parents. I find it morally and ethically wrong to presume that a teacher or other official knows more about a child and their personal need than their own parents. We should be protecting the rights of parents to oversee and care for their children not stepping in to tell parents what classes their children should or should not be allowed to participate in.

Students receiving religious instruction reflect positive impact to their wellbeing and those around them. Research has proven far more positive affects in student behavior, academic performance, and mental health. A child receiving positive teaching and training that does not under mind their well being will be well adjusted and add accomplishments that will reflect well into their adult years.

Parents should have the authority to decide if religious education is part of their child’s schooling and we should be doing everything we can to support parent’s decisions and rights to oversee their child’s education.

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

Sincerely,

Cynthia Farber