

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 Julie Coffman and I am from Franklin County.

I am the parent of three children in public school, all of which participate in released time religious instruction. This religious education has been instrumental in allowing my children to have moral and character instruction that aligns with our religious beliefs, and has also positively impacted their mental health. Due to the need for individualized educational instruction (2 of my 3 kids are on IEPs), private religious school is not a possibility for my children. Therefore, the only way my children can receive this type of education is through this policy provision. I strongly encourage you to support SB 293 which gives parents the authority to decide if religious education is part of their child's schooling, especially in families like mine where private school is not an option.

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

Sincerely,

Julie Coffman