

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 Sheila Kuba and I am from Union County.

I am serving as a LifeWise volunteer for my second year and I have seen first hand how the students are effected by the positive, impactful and moral instruction through Bible Education. I personally attended Religious Education class (in the classroom) during the early 1970s and feel like it was such a positive influence for me and my classmates.

I am aware that parental rights are being threatened and some central Ohio districts have denied parents access to released time programs. Recently, Westerville City Schools rescinded the released time policy, denying religious instruction to almost 300 students.

I feel parents should have the authority to choose if religious education should be part of their childrens schooling. Passing SB 293 would afford accessibility to all students, whether public school or home school.

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

Sincerely, Sheila Kuba