

November 14, 2024

Chair Brennen, 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 Mrs. Kathleen Straub and I am from Franklin County.

I am a retired high school teacher that worked in Ohio for 40 years in inner city or rural schools. During my teaching years, I was asked by several students in different schools to be the teacher to oversee their afterschool Bible study. At a different school using the current law and the caring principal's support, I led a during school hours Alateen session that grew to over 50 students. The need for my students' mental health was very important to me.

This year I have been privileged to be able to be a part of the Lifewise High School Academy in the Upper Arlington Schools. Since the program is volunteer and with their parents/guardians' permission, those students who attend will be left with little support if Ohio's Senate Bill 293 doesn't pass this year at this time. Many of the students that wanted to attend the past Bible Studies could not attend because the program was after school. However, I saw the Alateen sessions had better attendance because it was during the school day. I know for a fact that the timing was crucial.

Our high school Lifewise Academy is going well but if Ohio's Senate Bill 293 doesn't pass, these students will be left without the support that Lifewise gives them. I have personally seen wonderful results in the lives of these young people.

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

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathleen Straub, National Board Certified 2014

London City Schools
Columbus East High School
Anthony Wayne Schools
Hamilton City Schools, HOPE Alternative High School



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 11/15/24

Name: Mrs. Kathleen Straub

Address: 5551 Tangarey Court, Columbus, OH 43235

Telephone: 614-824-2430 (home phone)

Organization Representing: Lifewise

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 293

Testimony: ☐ Verbal ☒ Written ☐ Both

Testifying As: ☒ Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Special Requests: letter attached