

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 Luke Nagy and I am from Williams County.

I would like to advocate for Senate Bill 293. As a father of six and lifelong Ohio citizen, who has a family full of educators, who has personally coached, mentored, tutored, and cared for teens and younger children for decades, as well as being a pastor, I can tell you that Lifewise is serving a crucial need in the Bryan community. I would like to offer two reasons why Lifewise and other RTRI organizations must be protected.

First, for the purposes of citizenship: communities rely upon people citizens of upstanding moral character. Lifewise provides opportunities to children to be molded into upstanding citizens. Decency and high moral fiber are demonstrated by teachers and volunteers—more importantly, character is taught from the Bible which is the foundational document of Western society, culture, philosophy, ethics, and law. To deny children whose parents wish them to learn Biblical morality and character traits is not only to deny parents their fundamental rights, but to deny communities the opportunity to develop solid citizens.

Second, as above, parents are by right, and should be by law, in control of their children's education. Parents, not school boards, nor administrators, nor lawmakers, nor bureaucrats, nor teachers, but parents have sovereign rights to educate their children. To the degree that parents entrust their children to the public school system is exactly that—an exercise in trust. Those who wish to deny parents their rights are violators of that trust.

The General Assembly has proven over and over again in recent years that it cares about the US and Ohio Constitutions, that it cares about liberty, that it cares about morality. I plead with you to protect these vital ministries for the good of our communities and to protect the rights of parents.

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

Sincerely, Luke M Nagy