

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 SB293. My name is Elizabeth Mugrage and I live in Knox county. As a single mother of four I felt a need for my children to be a part of a program that would teach them good values like loving others and treating people the way you want to be treated. I wanted my children to know how much God loves them too. Now that my children are grown I volunteer weekly with teenagers who are from single parent homes. These teens will try to mask their pain but the fact that these children struggle daily and feel little self worth is evident.

I feel that programs like Lifewise are needed to encourage these children that they are not alone and their lives have value.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of SB293