

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 Russell King and I am from Allen County Ohio.

I ask you today for your support of Released Time for Religious Education. This provides our children with an opportunity to round out their education with sound moral lessons taught from the wisdom of the Bible, the greatest book ever written.

As you know, this is voluntary participation and must be approved by a parent. No child will have Religious Education forced upon them. However, to deny this opportunity to them is saying the State and only the State knows what is best for every child.

I have been active in supporting LifeWise and it is an incredible program that our children desperately need. The community is required to support the program with money and volunteer time in order for it to exist. If the community wants the program so strongly that they are willing to put their time and treasure into supporting it, why should the local school board be able to deny children of the same community the opportunity to participate.

Please do everything in your power to pass SB 293.

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

Sincerely,

Russell King
419-371-8824