

To: 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 Mary Lou Andrzejewski and I am from Knox County.

I strongly urge you to facilitate moving SB 293 through committee and on to the senate floor for a vote. It is constitutionally permissible for public school students to receive religious and moral education during school hours with released time programs.

Some school districts and administrations are trying to restrict this parental right. The choice should be up to the parents of students. This applies to instruction in programs of any/all religions. This is freedom OF religion. Americans want to have this choice, not freedom FROM religion.

I have been involved with LifeWise Academy, a released time program, both last school year and this. It is a beneficial program. The curriculum promotes good ethical and moral values which can, in time, provide better citizens to our communities, state and country. This type of education is something that is lacking in most public education curricula.

Since this and other released time programs do not preempt any academic class, I believe that every every parent should have a right to choose.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Andrzejewski