

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 Matthew Steven Wilson and I am from Erie County.

I have served Erie County residents for greater than 20 years in the Erie County Commissioners Human Resources office. My role is Director of Human Resources. I am also an Erie County Buckeye Boys State delegate. Today I write to you with utmost urgency and importance to give parents the opportunity for release time religious education.

Three of my five children attend LifeWise classes in Sandusky, Ohio. I am blessed to be able to serve our community in the LifeWise Perkins Program Director role. We heard opposition in a neighboring community, but let me assure you there is a silent majority of Christians and well-intentioned parents who want release time religious instruction. The stories are countless among our program staff, volunteers, parents, teachers, administrators, elected officials, churches, and community members.

Please help us make this happen! Parents want to have this choice.

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