

November 15th, 2024

Esteemed committee members:

Ohio law must set clear parameters for release time for religious instruction (RTRI) programs. This means leaving RTRI policies up to each of Ohio's 611 school districts. Under no circumstances should RTRI be required by law.

My personal view is that programs such as LifeWise Academy have no place in our schools. If parents truly believe that religion-based moral guidance is important for their kids, they should handle it at home and the church of their choice. Once kids arrive at school, they should remain focused on their classmates, teachers and administrators, the carefully planned curriculum, and ancillary activities.

Programs such as LifeWise are distractions from education and have the appearance of a political statement by participating parents, and the LifeWise organization.

My sincere gratitude for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Collier

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