

November 16, 2024

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Patrick Savage, I am a lifelong Ohioan and I live in Brecksville. I have been pleased to educate my five children in Ohio schools but must share with you my profound concerns about Senate Bill 293 and its potential effects on our students going forward. I urge you and your colleagues to vote against this bill.

- Additional hidden costs - As a former teacher, I know how time and resources can be drained by getting students from point A to point B in an orderly fashion. This limits the educational professional's time and ability to perform the tasks assigned in their job description, i.e., that for which the school district is paying. Nowhere have I seen the quantification and documentation of the inherent costs for this. The taxpayers and school districts are not deriving any value from those monies associated, a clear and obvious misallocation of funds as well as a disservice to the rest of the classroom.
- Insinuating that students receive little to no value from study halls, recess and 'non core' subjects -
 - Each member of my family has represented his/her school district in athletics and I can assure you that utilizing study halls was crucial to developing their time management skills.
 - A great deal of socialization occurs during recess (as opposed to sitting quietly in a classroom chair).
 - Non-participation in, say, the arts, stunts many students' holistic education.
- Vague descriptions of LifeWise's commitments to children's safety during the time required for its programs - If a tragedy were to occur, what exactly are LifeWise's strategies and/or insurance resources to rectify any such tragedy? Additionally, have there been gaps in LifeWise's training and employment screenings to prevent such tragedies?

Please consider these issues as you study this bill.

If we truly value the 'moral' side of our students' education, HB 445 is not the way to address it. Rather, I suggest the introduction of classes in Ethics and/or Comparative Religious Studies which could be presented during grade levels when such subjects can be understood.

Finally, I resent being told changing "may" to "will" is of little consequence. Indeed, it makes an overwhelming difference.

For these reasons, I ask that you stop this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Patrick D. Savage