

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 Marilyn Butler from Franklin County.

I would like to encourage Senator Chair Brenner to please take action to continue to move bill SB 293 through the legislative process so parents can have the decision to allow their children to participate in released time programs such as LifeWise Academy.

My grandchildren are a part of this well planned, detailed and informative program as they learn about history of other cultures, Biblical lineage as well as learning good character traits such as kindness, respect of others, honesty, truthfulness and compassion. These are all attributes our world needs now more than ever! What parent wouldn't want their child to embrace these attributes?

This program does not take them away from their studies as it functions during their lunch time and recess. I had the privilege to have lunch with my grandchildren during one of their sessions with LifeWise recently. This organization kept the time limit top of mind to be sure that this program was accomplished efficiently so that the learning, their lunch and the activity games were accomplished effectively and they arrived back at school on time. The activities allowed them to run, jump and just be kids while putting into practice what they had learned while participating. I was quite impressed!

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

Sincerely,

Marilyn Butler