

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 DiYanni, and I am from Franklin County

I am writing to ask you to support Bill 293 and allow parents to choose release time for religious instruction. Religious instruction is essential for understanding, respecting and accepting others with diverse religious backgrounds. It provides context for understanding important historical events, cultural practices, and societal norms.

If we want to encourage students to question, reason, and form informed opinions on complex ethical and moral issues facing our world today, we need to allow them the opportunity to study religion.

Please support SB 293.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary DiYanni