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General thoughts if you don't want to take the time to read my personal story which follows.

*Lifewise seems to be the 'main player' here trying to push HB 445 and SB 293. It has been said they dole out treats and trinkets to the students who then return to school with them, thus enticing other students to attend. This could easily disrupt the classroom.

*It opens the door to letting students leave for other religious reasons including worshipping the devil, KKK and other institutions

*The State of Ohio has placed great expectations of accountability with emphasis on testing and academic standards. The school setting has been designed for students to have the most success. It has been said that RTRI will be during lunchtime. The schools use this time to help students learn to socialize. They learn how their decisions and comments cause others to react, which teaches them the boundaries of friendship.

*Everyone is NOT a Christian. Even though I am, the Lifewise program appears to be compelling students at a young age to be Christian. This could be considered indoctrination. There could be a lack of checks and balances in place to keep young students safe. Currently, public school teachers are trained to protect students. Compelling students has resulted in lawsuits.

*RTRI is one more thing for schools to manage when districts are already short staffed. Getting students in and out of the building in the middle of the day is disruptive and takes manpower.

I am a parent of two children, ages 27 and 24. **I am a school board member.** I am finishing up my 17th year. **I am a long time member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church** in Lorain.

As a parent, I can tell you we did everything we thought we should to help our children grow into good, kind, decent adults who work hard and make a difference in the world. As a school board member, I can tell you that I know our administrators and staff work very, very hard to ensure students have meaningful curriculum. Not one minute of the school day is wasted. Art, gym, music, library and lunch were important to my kids. Scheduling of classes is an extremely challenging task! When my son was in 5th grade band, the day was so packed for a short time til the schedule was reworked, he missed about twenty minutes of MATH so he could be in band. **He is now a musician with the US Army** and on track to become promoted to Sergeant. Once students hit high school they are encouraged to take classes at

our local community college. My kids were active and involved. They were so busy, they did not have time to get their driver's licenses til just before starting their senior year. As a church member, our family attended church together every week. We tried to model good citizenship in our parish. My husband Barry was head usher for 20 years, taught Sunday school for 20 years, was in the music program, was assisting minister, does sound.... I was on council til I was term limited, stewardship, support, and funeral committees, communion assistant, assistant to the financial secretary. All the while, the kids lived this life with us.

According to LifeWise's website, the company is "an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention" a fellowship of Baptist evangelical congregations in the US. They are on what seems to be a mission to take students out of their very busy school take to provide them with religious training. I need not spend time on how they seem to be implementing their programs. You can read about that online. It is my personal opinion that families should attend church together. I will tell you that little kids clearly know the difference between what they are taught in their family church and what another denomination may teach. Probably the three best personal points I can make clearly demonstrate this, and if they are in a safe, secure home environment, they will have the confidence to question this with their parents. My son was in second grade or so when a classmate's mom invited him to attend a Sunday night youth group at their church. The boys were friends as well as being on my husband's soccer team and it seemed like something they could enjoy together. We often invited non members to attend our summer vacation bible school. The friend's church was not a Lutheran congregation, but Baptist. After about the third Sunday, our son told us he did not like some of the things that were said and that it conflicted with what he had been taught at First Lutheran. He stopped attending the Sunday night youth group. When he was in sixth grade, a motivational speaker came to the school to talk with the kids. He invited them all to join him at a church in Avon that night for dodgeball. Barry took our son, assuming it would be a nice evening of kids having fun. Barry was immediately given a recruitment talk to join the church. Again, our son felt uncomfortable and told us. Our daughter has always been insightful and questioning. From the time she could read, she would follow along in our church bulletin readings. If she had a pencil, she would circle things that bothered her or pass a note down the pew. If she didn't have something to write with, we'd get an elbow to our ribs followed by a finger pointing at the reading. **Our daughter is now a public policy wonk in St Louis.** Kids know what feels wrong to them. As I understand it, LifeWise "recruits" students through peers already enrolled in the program. Kids like to be with their friends. As I see it, there is a core group of parents who already believe in the teachings of LifeWise and want them to attend day time programming. This frees up their Sundays for youth baseball and soccer!! There is also a group of parents who feel guilty for not attending church, so here is a way to work through that. There is a group of parents who just don't care what their kids do.

As a school board member, I will reiterate that our days are FULL of meaningful programming. As a parent, I will reiterate that if a child is NOT in a safe, secure home environment, they will not have the confidence to speak out if they don't feel good about something. The tactics of LifeWise seem to be such that children will be in situations where they do not feel comfortable but won't speak up.

I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO VISIT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND SEE JUST HOW BUSY IT IS IN A NORMAL DAY. GAYLE MANNING KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

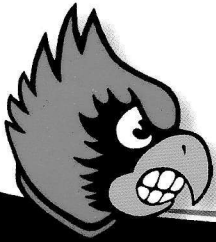
Do not allow SB 293 to be passed into law. IT IS DISRUPTIVE TO THE SCHOOL DAY AND YOU ARE PUTTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION

KEEP MAY AND DO NOT AMEND TO SHALL

Respectfully yours,



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