

**Opponent Testimony for S.B. 293**  
**Ohio Senate Education Committee**

November 17, 2024

Dear Chair Andrew Brenner, Vice Chair Sandra O'Brien, Ranking Member Catherine Ingram, and Esteemed Senate Education Committee Members Louis Blessing, III, Stephen Huffman, Michele Reynolds, and Vernon Sykes:

Thank you for carefully reading and considering my statement. My name is Trinity Lescallett. I am a resident of Tiffin, Ohio. I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 293, which seeks to alter the well-established system of Released Time Religious Instruction (RTRI) by changing the permissive "may" to "shall" in Section [3313.6022](#) of the Ohio Revised Code. I believe this unnecessary bill threatens the autonomy of local school boards and undermines constitutional principles. I urge you to oppose this legislation for several key reasons:

The governing power over educational policies should remain with locally elected school boards. These boards are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs of their communities. I have already reached out to all of my local school board members regarding my concerns with RTRI. I trust them to make the decisions that are best for our students and community. These decisions should not be made by politicians – most of whom have no experience working in the public school system.

Please consider my testimony and oppose SB 293. Please leave important decisions about when to adopt policy to the local school boards.

Respectfully,  
Trinity A. Lescallett