



Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for taking this testimony. My name is Sarah Myers and I am the daughter of a public school teacher and a parent of a public school student, a 4th grader in the Hilliard School District. I am strongly opposed to bill number 293, because changing it as this bill proposes removes my choice as a parent.

This opposition is not against any particular faith or belief, but informed by my own experiences. As an adult, I am a person of strong Catholic faith, but this is DESPITE a parochial elementary and middle school that called itself "Christ's Community." I was ostracized by classmates and abused by teachers. One teacher regularly pulled my hair. Since this school was also part of my church, there was no place I could be that this judgment wasn't.

Attending a public high school felt like a balm, because I could grow and learn without that pressure. I was surrounded by different people and experiences and those, as well as parental guidance, helped me come to faith in my own way. My opposition is not about religion.



