

To: Senate Education Committee  
From: Amy M. Beam

Date: November 18, 2024

Subject: Senate Bill 293 Release for Religious Instruction, Testimony in Opposition

Esteemed Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 293. In reading this bill, I failed to see any compelling argument for forcing schools to relinquish their responsibility for students during the school day for religious instruction that should more appropriately be delivered outside of school hours.

Religious education is a private decision that should be made by families and conducted outside of school hours. Are Ohio students doing so well in school that they can afford to miss class time and have to make up assignments outside of school?

Additionally, this seems to be a rather ham-handed effort to take authority from the school boards of the state and hand it to a handful of state legislators in the event that the school board does not vote to allow for this release for religious education, as happened in Westerville City Schools earlier this year.

I gladly pay my taxes in support of public-school education in a desire to have more fully informed and educated future citizens; they can get their religious training outside of school hours as churches and families have been doing for decades.

Respectfully,  
Amy Beam  
Fremont, Ohio