

Dear legislature,

My name is Stephanie Harless and I am on the Board of Education in the Worthington City School District. My comments are not intended to be representative of my entire board, but I am speaking from my experience as someone who sets policy and understands the logistics of implementing programs in a school district.

I am writing today in opposition to SB 293. Release Time for Religious instruction has been an option for school districts to implement and it should remain just that: an option. It is an overreach for the state to REQUIRE districts to have an RTRI policy.

Public school districts should have the ability to know what their students need, what they have the capacity to support, and how these programs may or may not impact their ability to maintain the best possible education for all their students. SB 293 would strip school districts of their autonomy to make these decisions at the district level.

Thank you,

Stephanie Harless