

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Stephanie DeMaggio. I am a parent of two children in the Upper Arlington public schools. I am strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

Both of my children have told me their experiences in their elementary classrooms over the past year with classmates leaving for Lifewise. Their classmates will leave in the middle of the school day, often in the middle of a learning session. They collect their things and leave, but it is disruptive for the teacher and other children. Then when their classmates return to class, the classmates will talk about having been at a "fun church party". I find it ridiculous that this is allowed during the school hours. Other religious programs are in the evenings on weekends.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this unAmerican bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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