

Dear Chairman Brenner-

i am a citizen of Ohio , a mother and grandmother and I am concerned about the "Lifewise" bills! [HB 445 and SB 293 would require all Ohio school districts](#) to write and adopt a policy allowing students to attend religious release programs **during the school day**. This is a direct attack on local control and parents' rights. I ask that the committee not allow any more hearings on this dangerous bill.

I am concerned about not only the disruption of the students and the school day but there is a need and duty to protect our children during the school day.

My parents chose to send me to parochial schools and I received some religious training basically incorporated into the school day with little to no disruption as this is what my parents reviewed then closely monitored within the school, PAID and again Chose that path for their children. This new law removes the word "May" and replaces it with SHALL ultimately forcing this upon children without the parents' specific agreement.

There are other problems with this bill besides the change in semantics which relinquish parental control, two being safety and mental health concerns.

First the child is disrupted from the tightly scheduled and monitored day , that you legislators, the school boards and the communities have worked so hard to coordinate and make work with curriculum that is set in the books and required to meet standards throughout the year!

Second, forcing the class removal for these religious segregations to isolate the child with unknown persons who may or may not be criminally background checked, medically unprepared and possibly may endanger them in transporting to a separate facility is of the utmost concern to me as a grandparent and citizen.

Third, the differentiation or labeling upon these children or the children who do not attend may add to the difficulty of student life and to the already mentally taxing youth concerns of being accepted or being bullied for being different or for not completing the missed work. Most course loads are very demanding these days so this is another problem. Will they be allowed time to complete the school studies that are required by law after being transported out of the classroom/ school to an unknown location for unrequired instruction? This pressure on the child is unacceptable.

Lastly, Is there a certain religion that will be taught? That sounds like a problem in and of itself for discrimination or feelings of superiority. Will they not be allowed recess or art, music or gym class instead? This is an affront on the Ohio Legislature and the State Board of Education that has painstakingly set up specific times each day to provide a well rounded curriculum for each and every student.

Leave these religious teachings to the home and church life and allow our educational institutions to do just that: teach all your required classes, testing preparation and some life skills that they learn being a part of the class not separated and forced to participate in an out of school religious atmosphere that may not be of their or their parents' choosing.

I appreciate you allowing me to voice my concerns and I hope that these bills are not heard or accepted, as the future of our education, parental rights and safety of our children may depend upon your decisions!

Attached is my completed pdf witness slip - please accept that and the above email as my witness statement. at the hearing for SB 293 and HB 445 this week.

Sincerely,

Mary Theresa Casey-Fauver
2964 Wicklow Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43204