

Subject: Opposition to SB 293

November 18, 2024

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Esteemed Senate Education Committee Members:

Thank you for your continued support of our local schools. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 293, not just as an educator with 18 years of experience teaching thousands of Ohio public school students, but also as a parent actively involved in our district's parent organization.

It is crucial that decisions affecting our children's education remain under local control, tailored to the unique needs and resources of each district. Many school boards currently lack the necessary funds and personnel to effectively implement such a policy. With nearly half of the recent levies denied by voters, our focus must remain on academics and supporting students through quality staff and focus on priorities that meet the needs of most learners.

SB 293 does not prioritize the needs of most students and staff- it is a focus that will realistically benefit a small percentage of Ohio students at a time when our schools are already limited in resources. Mandating policies that cater to specific interests undermines our efforts to provide quality education for all. Parents can practice their beliefs outside of school hours, and schools should remain focused on education and safety.

As a parent of children in 2nd, 5th, and 10th grades who are performing well academically, I specifically worry that this bill could jeopardize resources for quality education and distract from our primary focus on student learning and safety. Our educators are already stretched thin, and imposing additional responsibilities related to individual religious beliefs is not feasible at this time.

I urge you to join me in opposing SB 293. We need to prioritize the actual needs of our students, ensuring they receive the quality education they deserve without political interference. Your support in rejecting this bill is vital for the future of Ohio's education system.