

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

My name is Cheryl Grossman. I am a retired librarian who worked with student educators as a staff member at The Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

RTRI was originally intended to allow for individual minority religious expression but seems to have morphed into a free-for-all disruptive pull-out during the school day. It is incredible to me that anyone believes pulling some number of children out of school will not impact their learning process, as well as disrupting the school routine. Children, especially in elementary grades, also need recess and lunchtime to interact and get their fidgets out.

Further, there are no safeguards for children in the law. In no other circumstances would we allow adults not *individually* authorized by parents or legal guardians to waltz off with children under a school's care. Parents have to sign a permission form, but they may be under the impression that it is a school-sponsored activity which it explicitly is not.

If children are abused or worse, a fat lot of good it does them for the sponsor to assume "liability." No, standards for vetting personnel should be as stringent as for public schools and all parents should have full access to the curriculum and an accurate understanding of what they are signing away when they sign that permission form.

If this becomes a mandate and local boards lose the ability to decide what works for their schools, students, and community, I think we can expect poor academic and student outcomes. Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on these bills.