

I oppose SB293 and believe all decisions for release time for religious instruction should remain as a local decision with each school board.

The primary reasons include

- America was founded on separation of church and state. Mandating this time would have impacts on all students, regardless of their religious beliefs.
- Schools are diverse, as are religions, and a state wide mandate would muddy so many nuances and requirements of specific school districts, including those religious based schools.
- RTRI programs are not held to the same vetting standards as other programs, and the lack of standards put all children at risk, not just those that attend. Some programs, such as LifeWise academy, have hired known felons and those with criminal records.

Thank you for your consideration.

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