

November 18, 2024

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 293. My name is Jennifer Dailey and I am from Franklin County. I believe that Ohio needs Senate Bill 293.

I just recently listened to a podcast that shared research that showed the positive impact religious programs make on mental health, happiness and reduce violence. With the state of our community, I believe students and families deserve the opportunity to provide children with all available resources. We see day after day, the staggering statistics of violence and I believe that religious release time programs can really give students hope, purpose and happiness.

As a parent of children in the public schools in Grandview Heights, I would love for my children to have the opportunity to receive religious release time during school hours. This bill makes sure that any religious release time is separate from school district physically, financially and no teacher in the district teaches it. Also, religious release time is not required and is strictly the choice of the parent. No one has to do it.

That being said, I love the opportunity this provides families to exercise their religious rights and hold true to their beliefs. I know my faith in God has given me so much hope and peace and I work diligently to share that with my children. What a great opportunity Ohio has right in front of us to support religious freedoms, parental rights, and research proven programs that support mental health and reduce violence. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for Senate Bill 293.

Thank you for your service and time!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dailey