

As an Ohioan and lawful citizen of Columbus I firmly stand against this bill for the future of education and my future children. As a new homeowner and with dreams of children this bill firmly stands against my beliefs and the interpretations I so wish to instill in my future children and growing family. I do not wish for there to be any divide and bullying that I consider this bill to create, as demonstrated to what LifeWise has done in various schools already.

I firmly believe that everyone has the right, and power to practice and express their religion however they deem fit to their family and congregations. But that does not give them or others the power to inflict trauma or pain on others for choosing not to participate. This bill will do exactly that and only further the issue of bullying and the issues that stems from that by separating those who participate and those who do not.

I will gladly support religious instruction for after school events, religious based schools or religious sponsored events. But I can not in good conscience allow my future children's education to be impacted with their friends being removed from school and being left out or bullied for not being part of the crowd.

As someone that takes pride in supporting everyone and anyone I can not allow organizations like LifeWise to allow their teachings to be brought into schools at all. They do not teach what I consider to be safe theological teachings, especially for children. My biggest fear is my child asking me why God hates me because I do not follow their teachings. Or why someone may be picked on at school for who they like or how they feel just because it doesn't align with their teachings. That is not how I wish to raise a child and not how I wish to teach a child to participate in society and be an ally for everyone they encounter in the world.

If others choose to follow their teachings, then it must be outside school grounds and hours. I do not wish to see any child's education impacted, interrupted or altered based upon any religion that deems itself fit to control what is taught and when.