

November 18, 2024

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 Eric Coffman, and I am from Summit County.

Having graduated from the Akron Public School system in the late 80's, I would have benefitted greatly from participating in Released Time Religious Instruction. Meeting with my peers in a forum in which we learned about the mistakes, successes and redemptions made by biblical men and women would've helped our character development.

Most children/youth haven't lived life enough to respond correctly when situations arise that require defending others, intentionally encouraging others and making the "right" decision when needed.

There is strength in numbers which helps one have the courage to make the right decision. And that right decision can oftentimes make a lifechanging difference in the life of another person who is being bullied or left out.

Please support Senate Bill 293 to give all parents the opportunity to choose released time religious instruction and, in return, help make our world a better place through the character development of our young citizens.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for Senate Bill 293.

Sincerely,

Eric Coffman