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Nov. 18, 2024, re SB 293

Honorable members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing simply as a concerned citizen who supports freedom and the greatness of our Constitution. I am completely opposed to SB 293 for several reasons. First, I support the separation of church and state, the latter of which includes public, taxpayer-funded schools, as mandated by the Constitution and explained by James Madison and Thomas Jefferson.

Second, as a taxpayer, I believe I should have the freedom not to support religious instruction that I do not believe in. Corporatized "Christian" Nationalist organizations like Lifewise are heresy and a perversion of Christ's message of love, charity, and salvation. I do not want to be responsible for funding that. Besides, not all families are Protestant or even Christian.

Finally, allowing children out of school for religious education disrupts the sanctity and continuity of the school day. Further, every part of the school day and every subject is essential for a complete education. Parents are and have always been free to supplement public education with catechism or other religious education on their own time.

Please vote against SB 293. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted, Russell A. Hopkins