

Nov 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 Annetta Watson and I am from Van Wert County.

I believe that the parents released time for religious instructions is a valuable asset for our children and grandchildren to attend in Van Wert county. Some of the children in which I have encountered come from troubled homes and many times they feel that there is no hope concerning their situation. LifeWise allows these children to see life in a more positive way.

I remember one of the teachers asking the class the first week I was there at LifeWise to draw a picture of how they thought Jesus looked, I noticed that one of the children was having a hard time drawing a picture of how he thought Jesus might look, so I approached him and asked him why he was having such a difficult time drawing a picture of what Jesus might look like; And to my surprise, the young student replied and said, I have never heard of Jesus, and He went on to say that his parents had never told him about Jesus.

The teachers at Life Wise I have found to be truly caring and fun; I must say they truly put their whole heart into teaching their children about God's love. As a pastor's wife and a Sunday school teacher for over 36 years I'm deeply moved as I hear the Word of God being taught and live's being changed for the better.

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

Sincerely,

Annetta Watson