

To whom it may concern,

I oppose SB293. I believe all decisions about release time for religious instruction should remain a local decision with each school board. Private entities, like those supporting this bill, have motives, such as profit and evangelizing, that are not aligned with the goals of public education. This bill is part of a continued assault on public education, and public education is a strength of Solon, of Ohio, and of the United States that we most protect and strengthen. Parents have more than enough options outside of public school for religious instruction.

I also feel this bill fails to acknowledge the logistical nightmare this will be for schools and others. Nor does the bill adequately address that teaching experience or background checks for the organizations that look to benefit from this bill.

Thank you for accepting my written testimony,  
Jay Steele