

Dear Senator Brenner, Committee Chair:

This is to request that you and the other Senators kindly consider SB 293 and all it will allow in public schools. I am asking that if this bill will now require public schools to permit religious instruction, then there would be no reason for school boards voting it down such as what happened recently in Westerville City Schools. If this Bill as written will bring programs such as LifeWise back in to the schools, then please get this Bill through quickly.

I live in the Westerville City school District and I listened to the school board meetings where there were people who spoke in strong opposition to religious instruction and others who spoke strongly in favor of religious instruction.

As I read SB 293 it appears that this Bill addresses the major concerns that were presented as objections - such as liability and teacher qualifications. I absolutely did not appreciate the decision from the school board, but yet I understand that liability would be a valid concern. This bill as it is written seems to remove any liability for the schools and puts it all on the organization - in this case LifeWise.

The bill also ensures that whatever program is brought to the schools, the program requires parental consent. As it should! So we do not need a school board stopping a program that children enjoyed and benefited from just because the school board might not appreciate the content.

I would appreciate knowing any concerns Senators have about this Bill as it is written.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out. Thank you for all you do. I will be praying for you and the others.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Clegg

3614 Makassar Drive

Westerville, Ohio

614-702-1439