

11/18/2024

Senate Education Committee – Written Testimony

Dr. Chris Crews, Visiting Asst. Professor
Denison University, International Studies Program

Dear Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Chris Crews, and I am a professor in the International Studies Program at Denison University here in Ohio. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to SB 293 (and its counterpart HB 445). This educational release bill will further erode the important separation between optional private religious educational instruction and mandatory, non-religious public education here in Ohio.

Every Ohioan is free to provide religious instruction to their children, but this should not be done at the same time, and often as a substitute for, the important public education instruction already provided to Ohio students. Such a move will only further weaken public education in Ohio, while having the dangerous side effect of indirectly promoting those groups and individuals who have used “school choice” and “parental rights” arguments as a cover for radical religious indoctrination and efforts to further push a Christian nationalist agenda here in Ohio.

Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on SB 293 and let it die in committee. Thank you for considering my public testimony.

Sincerely,

Chris Crews