

November 16, 2024

To: Chair Brenner
Vice Chair O'Brien
Ranking Member Ingram
Members of the Senate Education Committee

Re: Senate Bill 293

I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 293. My name is Kathryn Yingst and I live in Allen County,

This is the third year that I have had the privilege to teach children in release time religious education. I have had many parents and teachers express the difference Bible and character education has made in their families and classrooms. I sincerely believe parents should have the opportunity to choose release time religious instruction without fear that school officials can override parents wishes.

Because children must have parental consent to participate in release time religious education, it is unfair to the parents and children for school officials to deny them that right. If parents do not want their child to participate, they simply can withhold consent.

Please put the power back into the parent's hands by passing Senate Bill 293 and thank you for this opportunity to advocate for said bill.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Yingst