

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

Thank you for accepting my written testimony. My name is Kelly Goshe, and I am a parent to three kids and an active PTA member at my public school in Moreland Hills. I am strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

Aside from the logistical nightmare that these bills force on local school districts and the academic harm they inflict on children forced to miss school, I am greatly concerned about the lack of safety measures that these bills contain. As it stands, these bills allow religious entities to take children to offsite locations with personnel who have no experience or background checks. Given that there are almost weekly headlines of church sex abuse scandals -- for example the L.A. Catholic Church's most recent payout for abusing children; the child molestation accusations against Texas' Gateway megachurch; and attempts by the Cleveland and Cincinnati Catholic dioceses to hide or destroy evidence of child sexual abuse -- I think it is grossly negligent for any representative to support a bill that puts children in such potentially dangerous situations.

Any representative who cares about the safety and well-being of children should oppose this bill.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on SB 293 and HB 445.

Thank you,

Kelly Goshe