

PROPONENT TESTIMONY-SB 293

TESTIMONY OF David Roy Ayers

Parent

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OHIO SENATE, 135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chair Brenner, Vice-Chair O'Brien and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 293.

I'm testifying under the most Nobel title someone can receive and that is the title of parent. This title imposes great responsibility on the one that carries it. This title also gains rights, liberties and protection from the hands of the State. The protection of these rights and liberties is something significantly lacking in our current laws and the reason why many parents are here today.

Parents have the natural right to direct their child's education including their religious education. Therefore, Senate Bill 293 requires schools to adopt a nondiscriminatory policy, consistent with federal law that respects the wishes of parents to have their children participate in release time for religious education.

Senate Bill 293 strengthens ORC Section 3313.6022(B) by changing the word "may" to "shall." The ORC should not simply grant permission to respect our citizens' rights but rather request that they do. It is not the role of a school board to grant or deny citizens their rights. Their role should simply be to determine the policy and procedures that best accommodate those rights.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for family's rights via Senate Bill 293

Respectfully,

David Ayers

Parent