

Greetings,

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 293. My name is Olivia Brothers and I am from Muskingum County.

I am the parent of a LifeWise student, and have seen a drastic change in her life, as well as the lives of her friends. LifeWise provides character based Bible education to not only teach children the Bible, but to provide them with positive morals to carry with them through their school day. As a parent, I am thankful that my child has the option to receive this positive education during the school day, alongside her peers.

In my time as a LifeWise parent, I have witnessed my child have an overwhelming excitement to attend school, a more positive outlook on life, and more critical thinking when it comes to dealing with challenges that school students face today. As you are likely aware, bullying in public schools is on the rise, which also means that depression and anxiety are also on the rise. Through this positive education that can be provided through released time religious instruction, students are encouraged to be kinder, more honest members of society, which will benefit them for years to come, as we continue to make America the best that it can be.

Without the consent from the local public schools, our students would not have the opportunity to experience this positive education. I am hopeful, as a parent, that all parents would have the opportunity to sign up for a positive released time religious instruction program such as LifeWise, through the passing of Senate Bill 293.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for Senate Bill 293.

Sincerely,

Olivia Brothers