

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 Steve Clifton, and I am from Delaware County. I realize you have received numerous statements, both supporting and in opposition, so I will respect your time and keep my opinion brief.

This is a simple question about who should govern religious freedoms of a public school student - the parent or the school board. As parents of three teenage girls, I cannot imagine the school board in my community telling my wife and I how to parent our children in the ways of our faith. The school board simply should not have the authority to tell us what we can and cannot do. Considering released time is constitutional, parents should be able to exercise their protected freedoms as they see fit and not have their local school board interfere.

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

#Grateful,

Steve Clifton