

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 Ira Barrett and I am from Williams County.

In my county I have seen overwhelming parental support for religious instruction during the school day. Over half of the students in my county are attending a released time religious instruction program if it is available to them, and SB 293 would give parents all across our state the option to include religious instruction into their student's school day.

School administrators have told me how important moral instruction is to their students' mental health and development. They see the need for it, and at the same time lament that they cannot legally offer it. SB 293 would give all Ohio students access to privately funded moral instruction as part of their overall education.

SB 293 would give parents the power to choose what is best for their student, while at the same time giving every Ohio school board the opportunity to serve their entire community.

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

Sincerely,  
Ira Barrett