

**Opponent Testimony for S.B. 293**  
**Ohio Senate Education Committee**

Dear Chair Andrew Brenner, Vice Chair Sandra O'Brien, Ranking Member Catherine Ingram, and Esteemed Senate Education Committee Members Louis Blessing, III, Stephen Huffman, Michele Reynolds, and Vernon Sykes:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Tara Radomski and I am a parent of four elementary age children enrolled in public school. I am strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

I am writing to express my opposition to this bill, which seeks to alter the well-established system of Released Time Religious Instruction (RTRI) by changing the permissive "may" to "shall" in Section [3313.6022](#) of the Ohio Revised Code. I believe this unnecessary bill threatens the autonomy of local school boards and undermines constitutional principles. I urge you to oppose this legislation for several key reasons:

The governing power over educational policies should remain with locally elected school boards. These boards are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs of their communities. School boards in Ohio derive their authority primarily from Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3313, which grants them the power to adopt policies for the governance of their schools. School boards have been granted significant governance powers over matters directly related to the management of their school districts. These powers allow the elected officials on local school boards to tailor their policies to the unique needs of their students and communities. Ohio courts have consistently upheld the importance of local control in public education decisions, reinforcing that state mandates should not undermine this principle, particularly in areas of policy and operations. These decisions have reinforced the governing power of local school boards.

The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio School Boards Association emphasize the critical role that local governance plays in ensuring that public education serves the best interests of students, free from unnecessary state mandates.

I ask you to vote NO on this bill. Please leave important decisions about when to adopt policy to the local school boards.