

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Nicole Wisniewski. I am a mother of two children in the Medina City Schools and an active and contributing Medina County community member. I am strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

Here are some of my concerns:

1. As residents of Ohio and citizens of the U.S., individuals have the freedom to exercise their chosen religion. But no one has the authority to impose their religious beliefs on other people or other people's children within a public school setting.
2. SB 293 does nothing to prevent students from being drawn into religious release programs with obvious political agendas. It does nothing to protect students while they're in someone else's care — background checks, criminal background checks, licenses, etc. This presents an unsafe environment for my children. It also doesn't address if a child gets sick or has an allergy in their care and how to address those things.
3. It declares that "the student assumes responsibility for any missed school work" but does not elaborate on how this impacts grades or if children can make up other important school work.
4. This bill limits instructional time for specialized/elective subjects like art, PE, music, or library/media. These are already limited and they build so much creativity and problem-solving in children. My children are very active in our award-winning band program, and it's helped build their confidence and character.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, dangerous and unAmerican bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Please let me know that you have received my testimony and keep me posted on the outcome.

Thank you,  
James Parada