

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

Thank you for reading this. My name is Kate Lindon, a mother of 2 school-age children and pastor's wife. I am strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

Let the local schools decide if they want to allow it by keeping the language as-is. Keep local control! I don't believe any private interest group should be allowed to check kids out during the school day. It could become a slippery slope of having to allow other groups the same option. The schools' finely tuned academic schedule should not be disrupted for ANY private group. No matter what time of day it is, it will also be a strain on the office staff to check kids in and out. I have also heard from parents at other schools that groups such as LifeWise start with lunch/recess time, then try to be considered a "special" to accommodate more students which would take away from gym/art/music time. (I'm reminded of a favorite children's book "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"!)

I have also read reports of LifeWise student attendees being incentivized with prizes and candy to recruit other students during the day, which would be inappropriate promotion. These students should not be proselytizing other students.

If parents want their children to have religious instruction, this should happen OUTSIDE of school hours. Please don't allow this group or others to have access during the school day, there's no reason for that disruption and all the questionable practices that could follow.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this un-American bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for advocating for our children and local control.

Kate Lindon  
Attached: Witness slip