

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jenna Beacom, and I am a Grandview mom and educator who is strongly opposed to SB 293 and its House counterpart HB 445.

As an educator, I know that every moment in the classroom counts, and that already there is a tight squeeze to fit everything in, providing the knowledge our children need as well as preparing them to excel on the many benchmark tests that are required. Our founders specified the separation of church and state, and taking away from time to educate our children in order to prioritize religion is not only contradictory to these founding principles, but morally wrong. Families and churches/mosques/temples/etc. can teach their children about their religion on their own time and in their own way.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this fundamentally unAmerican bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Jenna Beacom