

**Lucy Walk**-Student in Westerville, OH (Lucy's parent -Kelly Walk)

Chair Brenner, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Lucy Walk and I'm a student of Westerville City Schools. I attended Lifewise for 2 years and was looking forward to a 3rd year. Lifewise is a place of belonging for me and many others, without it I lose a piece of who I am. Lifewise helps me be proud of my beliefs and learn life lessons. I want to continue to do so. Lifewise is open to anyone, even if you're not Christian, and we welcome everyone.

I would like the opportunity for me and my friends to learn about God during the school day. Having this opportunity should be a choice parents can make for their kids.

Thank you.

**Asher Walk**-Student in Westerville, OH (Asher's parent -Kelly Walk)

Hello, Chair Brenner, members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Asher Walk, and I attend Westerville City Schools. I'm here to share with you the perspective of a student who benefitted from lifewise. I strongly believe the right to pursue religious instruction during school hours should not be up to the decision of school boards.

Lifewise has developed programs in more than 8 school districts in Central Ohio alone with additional projected to come. The students attending schools that allow the Lifewise program are satisfied, but what about the few school districts that don't allow Lifewise? Students in schools where RTRI is not allowed are unfairly stripped of their right to participate in religious teachings during school hours.

The very discontentment and frustration of myself and the thousands of students who would be enjoying Lifewise is the reason I think that school boards should not determine whether or not we deserve a religious right, but the state.

Thank you, committee, for allowing me to state my desire, and the desire of a huge percentage of students across the state of Ohio. All that I'm left to do is ask. Ask that you please pass House Bill SB 293 and let everyone enjoy amazing religious programs such as Lifewise.

Thank you