

My name is Rachelle Magaram. I have lived in Ohio my entire life. I attended Beachwood Public Schools for my K-12 education (with the exception of one year where I attended private school as an experiment). Beachwood Public Schools has a large Jewish population within its student body. All of these students learn the Ten Commandments at home or in synagogue. There were also students of other religions at the school. They all got their religious education at home or at a religious institution like a synagogue. Having a version of the Ten Commandments on the walls would not have added any value to my education. Instead, it would have been distracting and undermining. It would have created arguments among students and teachers about which translation is correct. After all, Jews read the Torah in Hebrew, but Christians read the Bible in Latin or English. Would the name of G-d be typed out on the wall? That is forbidden in Judaism. Instead of focusing on chemistry and literature, I would have been going back and forth with my classmates and educators about religion. That is not the purpose of public schools. It is the purpose of private religious schools. Please vote no on SB 34.

Sincerely,
Rachelle Magaram