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Kansas Catholic Conference
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Written PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2749, AN ACT concerning abortion; relating to reports on abortions performed in this state; requiring the reporting of the reasons for each abortion performed at a medical care facility or by a healthcare provider; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-445 and repealing the existing section.

TO: Madam Chair Representative Landwehr and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

DATE: February 14, 2024

Dear Madam Chair Landwehr and members of the committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold and I serve as the Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, which is the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. I wish to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to provide PROPONENT testimony for HB 2749.

Updating current abortion reporting requirements from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) as proposed in HB 2749 will help provide policy makers, pregnancy support organizations and the public at large with more timely and improved information about why women choose abortion in Kansas.

This information can then be made available and accessed to help identify programs, policies and resources that could be made available to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. More specific data—while still preserving the privacy of the woman—will likely result in better opportunities for women to access assistance for the care of their pregnancy when their desire is to choose life for their unborn child.

Adding supplemental reporting questions about what was most influential in the women's decision in seeking an abortion, can help provide great insight into this emotional decision. For example, if we can see trends that women are choosing abortion because of an abusive relationship, we can act and provide women information and resources about how to avoid abusive relationships and/or reporting such instances to law enforcement.

Another example would be in discovering women are choosing abortion because of financial reasons. If so, what public policies can we implement to help those in financially stressful situations?

Women in unplanned pregnancies need and deserve authentic care and support if they seek to bring their child into the world. HB 2749 will help provide insight as to how Kansans can best serve these women.

The Kansas Catholic Conference fully supports HB 2749 and respectfully ask you do the same.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support in favor of HB 2749. Please reach out if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lucrecia Nold".

Lucrecia Nold
Public Policy Specialist
Kansas Catholic Conference
lucrecia@kansascatholic.org