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Proponent Testimony – “Knights of Columbus” License Plate

HB 2117 — Providing for the Knights of Columbus distinctive license plate.
Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

House Committee on Transportation

February 12, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on this proposal to create a Knights of Columbus license plate. **The Kansas Catholic Conference enthusiastically supports this measure, HB 2117.**

One would be hard-pressed to find a fraternal organization more involved in a positive way in not only Catholic parishes, but in dozens of Kansas communities.

The annual Tootsie Roll Program raised over \$364,000 last year to help people with intellectual disabilities and since its inception has distributed \$10.5 million to various Kansas agencies and centers assisting those with intellectual disabilities. The Knights of Columbus is the prime sponsor of the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament.

The Pennies from Heaven Program gives immediate financial assistance for clothing, food or shelter to families, regardless of race, creed, or national origin, whose home has been destroyed by fire or other natural disasters. Since its inception the program has provided \$1,120,000 for 5,290 claims.

These are just a few examples of how the Knights of Columbus make Kansas communities better. They are also the stronghold of countless pro-Life efforts including help for mothers in a crisis pregnancy and ultrasound machines.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this bill. It will help spread the word about the good work of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas. We urge your approval.

MOST REVEREND JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, D.D.
DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN, D.D.
Board Chairman
ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

MOST REVEREND CARL A. KEMME, D.D.
DIOCESE OF WICHITA

MOST REVEREND GERALD L. VINCKE
DIOCESE OF SALINA

CHUCK WEBER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR