

State of Kansas House Judiciary Committee

SB 56 Requiring Posting of a Human Trafficking Awareness Notice Approved by the Attorney General in Certain Businesses and Public Places

Kansas Catholic Conference, Chuck Weber, Executive Director

Proponent, Written Only Testimony

March 22, 2021

Dear Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 56, designed to increase awareness and critical assistance for victims of human trafficking in Kansas. I would like to express the full support of the Catholic Bishops and dioceses of Kansas for this important initiative undertaken by the Office of the Attorney General.

Pope Francis recently decried human trafficking as, “an abhorrent plague.” He asked state leaders to turn their attention and greater efforts to this crisis that impacts more than 21 million people throughout the world. Senate Bill 56 is an important effort to answer this challenge.

The public notices proposed by the Attorney General will provide critical outreach to victims, offering them information that can help them escape life in the middle of what the Holy Father called, “a cruel, ugly and criminal form of modern slavery.” The notices will also increase awareness of business owners and patrons who will be enabled to recognize signs of trafficking and offer immediate help.

We ask the Committee members to ensure that this bill, unanimously supported in the Senate, be recommended for passage by the Kansas House at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you.