



204 SW 8TH AVE • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603 • PHONE 785-227-9247 • WWW.KANSASCATHOLIC.ORG

Written PROPONENT TESTIMONY for bill HB 2550: AN ACT concerning education; creating the student empowerment act; authorizing the establishment of education savings accounts for certain students to attend private schools of their choice; amending K.S.A. 72- 5134 and K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 79-32,117 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 79-32,117q.

To: House K-12 Education Budget Chair Kristey Williams and members of the Committee

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

Date: January 31, 2022

Chairperson Williams and members of the Committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB 2550.

The Catholic Church has always believed that parents are the primary caregivers of their children. This includes the education of each child. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states in its first paragraph discussing the duties of parents, "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable." And continues by also saying, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children."

With education of the child being a top responsibility for parents, the parents should have the ability, without restraints, to give their child the best educational fit for his or her need(s). No parent should have to sacrifice their child's education because of economic or governmental limitations. A child who is educated properly has a better opportunity to flourish and in return give back to society. HB 2550 helps parents with the educational options that best fit their child's needs. The Kansas Catholic Conference offers our support for HB 2550.

Contact: Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference Lucrecia@KansasCatholic.org

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

MOST REVEREND GERALD L. VINCKE, S.T.L.
DIOCESE OF SALINA

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

CHUCK WEBER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR