KFV Testimony in Support of S.B. 520

Senate Federal and State Affairs

Brittany Jones

March 10, 2026

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones and I am President of Kansas Family Voice. S.B. 520 is important in preserving the sanctity of religious services from invasion by bad actors. Kansas Family Voice is a staunch defender of religious freedom and the freedom to worship.

The U.S. Constitution and the Kansas Constitution both have strong, explicit protections for the right to worship freely. The Kansas Constitution explicitly says, "Nor shall any control of or interference with the rights of conscience be permitted."[1] S.B. 520 gives actionable relief if this constitutional right is violated.

S.B. 520 defines a new criminal offense which is the interference with the conduct of a religious assembly. This targets actions that disrupt, obstruct, or prevent a religious gathering from taking place. It creates a criminal penalty and provides for a civil remedy for victims of the crime.

While there are federal protections similar to S.B. 520, this bill provides state-level protections that are more clearly laid out than just current disorderly conduct laws or trespass laws. It provides a clear legal remedy when a person's rights to worship are violated. These legal remedies are not clearly available without S.B. 520. Kansans are in need of clear and effective legal protections regarding their right to worship, and current disorderly conduct and trespass laws do not effectively protect that right.

Several other states have passed similar laws that have been on the books for a number of years.[2] It is important to note that this bill is agnostic on the viewpoint or the message of the violator – it is about their actions. This bill does not stop anyone from speaking a message or having their voice heard, but it ensures that it is done in the proper time, place, and manner and that it does not interfere with other lawful rights.

Unfortunately, places of worship have been under attack in recent years. Many of you will be most recently familiar with the church in Minnesota whose service was disrupted by protestors just six weeks ago. Unfortunately, Kansas churches have also come under attack in recent years.[3] S.B. 520 would provide a clear remedy for these churches who

---

[1] Kansas Constitution § 7.
[2] See New York, California, and Massachusetts.
[3] See e.g. KMBC, 'I am angry': Racial slur painted on Kansas City, Kansas, church sign Dec. 6, 2025, https://www.kmbc.com/article/dupree-kck-church-racist-graffiti-hate-crime/69665274; The Lawrence Times, Two Lawrence churches vandalized ahead of Aug. 2 vote, Aug. 1, 2022, https://lawrencekstimes.com/2022/08/01/churches-vandalized/; Statement from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in

have had their buildings and sanctuaries violated without requiring the federal government to act.

Pastor Jonathan Parnell, the lead pastor of Cities Church in St. Paul Minnesota, said after the protest in his church, “it should never happen again.” S.B. 520 will help ensure that this does not happen in Kansas, but if it does, there will be real, clear legal consequences. It gives victims real tools to hold bad actors accountable. This is why S.B. 520 is so important, and we urge you to pass it out favorably.

Kansas on Ascension vandalism, Jul. 10, 2022, https://archkck.org/statement-from-the-archdiocese-of-kansas-city-in-kansas-on-ascension-vandalism/.