



**Written PROPONENT testimony for HB 2236 Establishing parents' right to direct the education, upbringing and moral or religious training of their children including the right to object to harmful and inappropriate educational materials.**

To: Committee on Education, Madam Chair Baumgardner and committee members

From: Lucrecia Nold, Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

Date: March 9, 2023

Madam Chair Baumgardner and members of the committee,

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2236, a bill establishing a parents' right to direct the education, upbringing and moral or religious training of their children.**

Throughout the history of mankind, children have been born to parents and into families that help form society. The laws of society should then affirm the natural order of parents raising their children and reject the idea of children being products or property of the government.

Within the Catholic Church, we hold strong to the natural order and natural right of parents. This includes the parents right to direct the upbringing and education of their children. Parents are the "original and primary" educators of their children, and their duties as well as their rights are "irreplaceable and inalienable" (*Compendium*, No. 239). Therefore, the parent is ultimately responsible for the child's education. We recognize that at times parents seek help from other individuals or institutions but always at the direction of the parents.

It is then critical the State recognize this natural right of the parents, most especially when it comes to the religious and moral education of their children. The Kansas Catholic Conference supports bill HB 2236 as parents seek to secure and uphold their natural right as the primary educator of their children, instead of the government. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops, I respectfully ask you to consider support and passage of HB 2236.

Thank you again, Madam Chair and committee members. Please feel free to reach out to me at the Kansas Catholic Conference for any questions. Again, thank you for your consideration.

Lucrecia Nold

Kansas Catholic Conference  
204 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, KS 66603  
lucrecia@kansascatholic.org