



**Written PROPONENT testimony for SB 12 Enacting the Kansas child mutilation prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.**

To: Madam Chair Senator Gossage and Committee Members

From: Lucrecia Nold, Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

Date: February 14, 2023

Madam Chair Senator Gossage and members of the committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a PROPONENT to bill SB 12.

The Catholic Church teaches and invites us to love, respect and show compassion to all people. This includes people who do not share or embrace our view of the gift and beauty of human sexuality. Loving someone who experiences gender dysphoria requires us to show them and remind them of who they are, a beloved child of God.

As Christians we find our identity in God our creator- through Sacred Scripture and tradition—as well as the reality of biology. This is true for all people. Separating one’s biological sex from one’s gender creates a situation where the person is in collision with themselves.

Allowing a person, especially a child, to participate in gender reassignment surgery or gender altering medication, would be a disservice to them. We must protect our children.

While supportive of the overall bill, the Kansas Catholic Conference suggests two changes, 1) that restrictions on performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy should apply to those 17 years or younger and 2) that disciplinary action be taken by the Kansas Board of healing Arts.

Let us love the person experiencing gender dysphoria by showing them who they were created to be--a son or daughter of God. The Kansas Catholic Conference supports SB 12 and ask favorably for your support as well.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee, for allowing me to provide support for SB 12. Please feel free to reach out to me at the Kansas Catholic Conference for any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

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