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Oral PROPONENT testimony for HB 2729. AN ACT concerning abortion; relating to the woman's-right-to-know act; requiring the Kansas department of health and environment to provide certain forms and notices to physicians; amending K.S.A. 65-6709 and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-6716 and repealing the existing sections.

Date: February 12, 2026

To: Chair Representative Kessler and members of the Kansas Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Lucrecia Nold, Kansas Catholic Conference

Dear Chair Kessler and committee members,

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 HB 2729. Which would amend and strengthen the Woman's Right to Know (WRTK) constitutional foundation and better serve women facing one of life's most consequential decisions.

Catholic social teaching holds that every person possesses inherent dignity and that the exercise of authentic freedom requires knowledge of the truth. A woman facing an abortion decision deserves to know the full truth about the procedure, its risks, its alternatives, and the nature of the life within her. The WRTK provides that truth. This amendment ensures the state can continue to provide it clearly and effectively.

In a recent trial, abortion providers complained about the struggles of having to use outdated methods to send out and provide the WRTK consent form. They also commented on their frustration of not having standardized forms. This amendment will help address both of their concerns.

Updating the consent form, from only the paper format to now, an electronic version, brings the State into the twenty first century. It also helps in reducing any delay or errors to a woman needing to receive the forms. Receiving critical health and other information in a timely manner allows the woman to think through her decision and allows her space to seek counsel from a trusted family member or friend. Overall, this gives each woman in a difficult pregnancy more time to review and consider the information provided in the form and the life impacting decision she is about to make.

Having the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) provide a standardized form will also be beneficial. It allows for clear and concise information. It eliminates any concerns or frustrations about where the consent form came from, and if all the required information is present. A standardized KDHE form helps ensure proper and straightforward compliance. It also ensures that every woman receives the same information.

The trial also confirmed what the Catholic Church has long taught: that many women who obtain abortions do so under pressure, without adequate information, and later experience profound grief and regret. The testimony provided by three individuals was a powerful reminder that informed consent is not a bureaucratic formality; it is a safeguard for human dignity.

In conclusion, the Kansas Catholic Conference urges this Committee to pass these amendments. Women deserve to have this valuable information provided to them in a manner that best suits their needs and situation in life. Clear and consistent information is crucial; allowing women in difficult pregnancies to review and contemplate, in a timely manner.

The Kansas Catholic Conference stands in full support of HB 2729 and ask also for your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lucrecia Nold
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