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KANSAS STATEHOUSE OFFICE
Kansas Catholic Conference
204 SW 8th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603

Date: March 4, 2025

To: Chairman Carpenter and members of the Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Chuck Weber, Kansas Catholic Conference

RE: ORAL PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB2236 — Establishing the mental health intervention team program in the Kansas department for aging and disability services in state statute and providing incentives for coordination between school districts, qualified schools and mental health intervention team providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2236, which will establish in statute the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) program. As you are aware, this pilot program is nearly 10 years old and has proven its worth. We welcome the change in oversight to KDADS.

Last week, the KCC hand-delivered to each member of this committee an extensive packet of testimonials from parents, children, teachers, administrators and others, all singing the praises of services delivered through the MHIT program.

These testimonials speak for themselves, and I encourage you to once again review them. During this hearing you will hear from some of that group who can provide you with more details on the success of the program utilization.

While MHIT mental health services are available to any student, you should know that services to Catholic school student are being focused on “high risk” student populations (as defined by the KSDE) OR rural students where it can be difficult to get services. Our administrators screen counselors working with our children, and services are being conducted in person.

MHIT is working as intended.

Indeed, we anticipate that more services may be needed.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Thank you.

Chuck Weber
Kansas Catholic Conference