

Written Proponent Testimony for HB 2426
House Judiciary Committee
January 13, 2026

To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Gerry Malnar, and I write on behalf of Johnson County Voter Information, a grassroots citizen organization committed to fostering civic engagement grounded in truth, reason, and respect for the common good. I urge you to support House Bill 2426.

From a Catholic faith perspective, law is a moral teacher. Authentic compassion requires us to speak truthfully about the human person while seeking policies that protect the dignity, safety, and rights of all. Catholic social teaching affirms that human dignity is rooted in objective reality and that the state has a responsibility to order society toward the common good.

Medicine points to this same reality. In clinical practice, biological sex is not incidental—it guides diagnosis, treatment, and preventive care across the lifespan. Accurate identification of sex is essential for everything from prescribing medication to evaluating risk profiles and health outcomes. Just as medicine relies on objective data to safeguard a patient’s well-being, civil law relies on objective information to safeguard the public good.

House Bill 2426 advances that responsibility by restoring accuracy and uniformity to state documents. When official records fail to reflect biological sex, confusion results that affects law enforcement, public safety, and the fair implementation of sex-based protections in athletics, prisons, shelters, and other single-sex spaces. Clear and accurate documentation is essential for justice, safety, and sound governance.

The bill also provides needed legal clarity. By closing gaps in existing statutes, it strengthens the state’s ability to uphold the intent of the Women’s Bill of Rights and reduces ongoing ambiguity that has produced inconsistent records and costly litigation. This clarity is a matter of good stewardship—of public resources, of legislative authority, and ultimately of the truth the law is meant to serve.

As Catholics, we are called to approach every person with compassion, including those who experience profound personal struggles. At the same time, compassion must be rooted in truth. Policies that affirm biological reality while protecting privacy, fairness, and safety serve the common good and uphold the moral integrity of the law.

Please vote yes on House Bill 2426. Know of my prayers for your deliberations and your service to the people of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Gerry Malnar, MD, MBA
Chair, Johnson County Voter Information