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Written-only Testimony by Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd in Opposition to SB419, Enacting the Kansas intellectual rights and knowledge act (Charlie Kirk bill)
Senate Committee on Education, Sen. Renee Erickson, chair - Feb. 4, 2026

Mme. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 419. I offer this testimony as a Christian pastor whose faith and ministry is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ—teachings that emphasize truth, humility, love of neighbor, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

SB 419 reflects not a commitment to truth, or to humility, or to love and care, or even, frankly, to education, but instead to a broader national culture-war agenda closely associated with political activists such as Charlie Kirk and organizations that seek to merge conservative Christianity with state power. This approach does not strengthen Christianity—it distorts it. It replaces humility with grievance, curiosity with control, and love of neighbor with fear of ideological difference.

I am particularly concerned that SB 419 lends support to Christian nationalism, an ideology that conflates Christianity with a specific identity (white, male, Christian, affluent, conservative) and seeks to enforce that identity through law. **Christian nationalism is not Christianity.** It elevates power over service, dominance over compassion, and political victory over moral witness. Many Christians across denominations have named this movement as a threat not only to democracy, but to the integrity of the Christian faith itself.

According to Elizabeth Eaton, the former Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the denomination in which I serve as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Lindsborg, “Christian nationalism is a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy. It’s precisely because I love my country that I warn against it.”¹

Further, according to research published in 2022, “state support for one religion or religious institution over all others with the goal of strengthening the faith had the opposite effect.”²

¹ Eaton, Elizabeth. “Why I am against Christian Nationalism.” *YouTube*, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXEAZUA3JkM>. Accessed 3 February 2026.

² Tyler, Amanda. *How to End Christian Nationalism*. Broadleaf Books, 2024.

As a Christian and as a US citizen, it is my duty to speak against Christian nationalism in all its forms, as it hijacks my faith *and* my country. Christianity must not be reduced to a tool of this partisan culture war.

I urge this committee to reject SB 419 and to resist efforts to import national ideological battles into Kansas classrooms. Faith should inspire compassion, humility, and justice—not censorship, exclusion, or state-sanctioned conformity.

The Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd, Lindsborg