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www.KansasCatholic.org
Phone: 785-227-9247
Cell: 316-708-5350

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

Written PROPONENT testimony in favor of SB 237. AN ACT concerning family law; relating to child support obligations; requiring the court to consider the value of retirement accounts when determining support orders; prohibiting modification of a support order for criminal conduct, professional misconduct or voluntary underemployment; eliminating the exemption and retirement moneys from claims to fulfill child support obligations; amending K.S.A. 23- 3002 and 23-3005 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 60-2308 and repealing the existing sections.

TO: Madam Chair Sen. Warren and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

DATE: February 14, 2025

Dear Chair Warren and committee members,

My name is Lucrecia Nold and I serve as the Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. I wish to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to provide PROPONENT testimony for SB 237.

A sad reality of today's society is how women are too often being used and exploited within relationships where they have a male partner. When their sexual encounters result in a pregnancy, far too many men—now fathers of preborn children they helped to create—abandon the woman who now alone must carry the consequences of their actions.

Catholics believe that children and families best thrive and flourish when both mother and father are present in marriage. However, we do recognize that this is not always a reality for many. In those situations, we want to provide the best support possible to the mother who is most often solely responsible for raising the child.

One way to help is by ensuring the father of a child provides financial support through mandated child support payments. Alleviating at least some of the financial burdens a mother encounters, throughout the child's life, is a moral imperative. One way to help ensure these payments is through legislation like SB 237. As we believe a father should help share in the financial responsibility of raising their child, holding them to the accountability of their actions.

Women who become mothers and face the abandonment of the child's father need and deserve better financial support and security. The child deserves this support as

well, as a precursor to a fully alive and flourishing life.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of SB 237. If you have any questions, please contact me with the information provided below.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nold", is positioned above the typed name.

Lucrecia Nold
Public Policy Specialist
Kansas Catholic Conference
lucrecia@kansascatholic.org