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

RE: **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HB 2359**

From: Chuck Weber, executive director, Kansas Catholic Conference

Date: March 11, 2025

To: Chairwoman Kellie Wearren and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Chair Warren and members of the committee:

My name is Chuck Weber, and I serve as executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas.

Our interest in this legislation is focused upon amending current Kansas law regarding end-of-life powers guardian policy. The totality of the bill—nearly 150 pages in length—is complex.

Our specific interest is in support of an amendment to the bill that was added in the House Judiciary Committee. We now stand in support of this bill, as amended.

The core of our concern is updating Kansas law regarding guardianship/conservatorship in a manner that balances the rights of Kansans with disabilities, most particularly at the end-of-life, with the responsibilities of their guardians/conservators.

The last time these laws were significantly updated in Kansas was 2002. The goal of our involvement is making sure end-of-life issues and Kansas public policy does not discriminate against or harm the right to life for Kansans with disabilities.

The Kansas Catholic Conference joins the other organizational partners in this effort in communicating our SUPPORT for the current language of HB 2359, AS AMENDED, regarding end-of-life and guardianship issues.

We would like the members of the Judiciary Committee to know that while for the purposes of this hearing we are deferring detailed questions about the bill and amendment to others, trusted ethicists from our vantage point have

reviewed and approved the proposed amendment. We believe the language of the amended bill will afford people with disabilities the fullest measure of due process and the best definitions and provisions in law that ensure the protection of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2359.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerald C "Chuck" Weber

316-708-5350

Chuck@KansasCatholic.org