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Chuck@KansasCatholic.org
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 HB 2307. AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions; transferring the power to authorize and oversee certain activities regarding prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions awareness programs from the department of health and environment to the Kansas council on developmental disabilities; amending K.S.A. 65-1,259 and repealing the existing section.

TO: Madam Chair Senator Gossage and members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

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

DATE: March 6, 2025

Dear Chair Gossage and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for HB 2307. My name is Lucrecia Nold and I am the policy specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas.

Throughout Sacred Scripture and Catholic Tradition, the Catholic Church has upheld the belief that every individual has intrinsic dignity and value. The Catholic Church calls for preferential care for the most vulnerable, including those often viewed by society as a burden, like infants, born and preborn, with disabilities.

It is in these circumstances where parents who are excited to welcome a child into the world can become heavy-hearted. This may come as news of their child's pending health risks and disabilities come into focus. Parents who are presented with a prebirth diagnosis need special care themselves. They should be wrapped with care and compassion and provided with all available resources to help them on this unexpected journey. This is what the elements of HB 2307 seek to provide.

If HB 2307 becomes law, parents who have been given a prenatal and postnatal disability diagnosis for their child will receive extra resources and support as they set about caring for their precious child. These extra resources and support will be supervised by individuals from the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities who fully understand the diagnosis and reality these parents are facing.

Allow me to conclude with a quote from Pope Francis and his papal encyclical letter called *Fratelli Tutti*¹. In paragraph 118, the Holy Father addresses how we have a responsibility to ensure **all** individuals are treated with dignity and offered the best opportunities for growth.

¹ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

"The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development."

These words help guide our call to offer more help to parents in need and their children who are experiencing special difficulties. Thank you again for the opportunity to support HB 2307. For any questions, please reach out using the contact information listed below.



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