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Oral PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2809, AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; creating the every mom matters act; establishing the every mom matters program in the department of health and environment; requiring the state treasurer to contract with eligible organizations to provide information and support services to pregnant women and parents considering adoption; establishing the every mom matters program fund.

TO: Chair Rep. Carpenter and members of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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

DATE: March 12, 2024

Dear Chair Carpenter and committee members,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB 2809.

According to the late Pope Benedict XVI, “States are called to enact policies promoting the centrality and the integrity of the family.”¹ This is further acknowledged in paragraph 2209 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which reads “The family must be helped and defended by appropriate social measures. Where families cannot fulfill their responsibilities, other social bodies have the duty of helping them and of supporting the institution of the family. Following the principle of subsidiarity, larger communities should take care not to usurp the family’s prerogatives or interfere in its life.”

This bill encompasses the statements made in the above paragraph.

As families go through the joys, fears, and the unknown of extending their families, questions often arise. “Where can I get medical care? Who can assist with financial cost? How does the adoption process work? Where can I get post-partum counselling?” And many more questions often appear. Finding someone to help answer these questions and give direction, can be daunting. Which is why this bill would be beneficial to Kansas families.

Providing Kansas families with a hotline to help answer their questions, when it comes to extending their family, is extremely valuable. Assisting families in Kansas who are wanting to grow their families can help provide them with comfort, reassurance, and stability. All things needed to help them fully focus on the new addition to their family.

As a State, we should offer Kansas families guidance as they journey on a path to growing their family. Thus, the Kansas Catholic Conference offers its full support in HB 2809.

¹ <https://capp-usa.org/caritas-in-veritate/#44>

The Kansas Catholic Conference respectfully encourages this committee to support HB 2809 as well.
Please reach out if there are any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lucrecia Nold".

Lucrecia Nold
Public Policy Specialist
Kansas Catholic Conference
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