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Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 3:30 PM  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Susan Humphries, Chair

Proponent Testimony, Written

HB2300 – Requiring a duly ordained minister of religion to report certain abuse

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB2300.**

Mainstream SUPPORTS HB2300 as a means to make our children safer and hold duly ordained ministers to the same requirements as licensed health professionals, teachers, and emergency personnel to report abuse and neglect. Kansas is the only one of our neighboring states and one of the last states in the country that does not include clergy as a mandated reporter, and it's time that we corrected that.

Our ministers hold places of respect and power in our communities, and are uniquely qualified to see when there are suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Including them in the list of mandated reporters is a positive step in the direction of strengthening religious freedom by holding them to the same standards as individuals in secular settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important bill.

Thank you,

Laurel Burchfield  
Mainstream