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**Oral PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2791, AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to healthcare of minors; enacting the forbidding abusive child transitions act; prohibiting healthcare professionals from treating a child whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex; authorizing a civil cause of action against healthcare professionals for providing such treatments; restricting use of state funds to promote gender transitioning; prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for healthcare providers that provide gender transition treatment to children; authorizing professional discipline against a physician who performs such treatments; amending K.S.A. 65-2837 and K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-1120 and repealing the existing sections**

TO: Madam Chair Rep. Landwehr and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

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

DATE: February 29, 2024

Madam Chair Rep. Landwehr and members of the committee,

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 2791.

The Catholic Church teaches and invites us to love, respect and show compassion to all people. This includes people who do not share or embrace our view of the gift and beauty of human sexuality. Loving someone questioning their sexuality requires us to show them and remind them of who they are, a beloved child of God made in His image.

As Christians we find our identity in God our creator- through Sacred Scripture and tradition- as well as the reality of biology. This is true for all people. Separating one's biological sex from one's gender creates a situation where the person is in collision with themselves.

Pope Francis speaks eloquently about the dangers and harms of gender ideology. He reminds us that the distinctions between men and women, male and female, are Divine gifts. These gifts are to be nurtured with our children. Manipulating or changing these gifts through chemicals or surgery; "Destroy at its roots' God's most basic plan for human beings: diversity, distinction. It would make everything homogenous, neutral. It is an attack on difference, on the creativity of God and on men and women."<sup>1</sup>

Allowing a person, especially a child, to participate in gender reassignment surgery or gender altering medication, would be a disservice to them. We must protect our children.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/12451/pope-francis-attacks-evil-of-gender-theory->

Let us love the person experiencing gender confusion by showing them who they were created to be- a son or daughter of God. The Kansas Catholic Conference supports HB 2791 and ask favorably for your support as well.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee for allowing me to provide support for HB 2791. Please feel free to reach out to me at the Kansas Catholic Conference for any questions. Thank you for your consideration.



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