



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend  
Joseph F. Naumann, D.D.  
Archdiocese of Kansas  
City in Kansas  
Board Chairman

Most Reverend  
John B. Brungardt, D.D.  
Diocese of Dodge City

Most Reverend  
Carl A. Kemme, D.D.  
Diocese of Wichita

Most Reverend  
Gerald L. Vincke, S.T.L.  
Diocese of Salina

Mr. Chuck Weber  
Executive Director

Chuck@KansasCatholic.org  
www.KansasCatholic.org  
Phone: 785-227-9247  
Cell: 316-708-5350

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

Date: January 29, 2025

To: Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Kellie Warren and committee members

From: Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

RE: **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY for SB 71, Increasing the criminal penalties for buying sexual relations, removing provisions regarding city ordinances prohibiting buying sexual relations, requiring certain offenders to complete an educational or treatment program regarding commercial sexual exploitation and requiring the attorney general to approve such programs in consultation with the office of judicial administration.**

Madam Chair Warren and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony in favor of SB 71. If passed into law, the elements of SB 71 will represent a bold step forward in the struggle to identify, stigmatize and help eradicate the scourge of human trafficking in Kansas.

Survivors of human trafficking are commonly linked by poverty and lack of opportunity. They are also connected by their desperation and their perception of migration as an accessible escape route. They very often seek to escape life in an oppressive living environment, with the false hope of finding opportunity and a brighter future elsewhere.

Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feeds it and aggressively prosecuting those people who benefit from the exploitation of vulnerable human beings. Passage of SB 71 is legislation that will help attain that goal and we urge your support.

Gerald C. "Chuck" Weber

Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference  
316-708-5350

[Chuck@KansasCatholic.org](mailto:Chuck@KansasCatholic.org)