



February 3, 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend
Shawn McKnight, S.T.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 8th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603

To: Senator Caryn Tyson and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

RE: **Written PROPONENT testimony for SB 368 Enacting the health care sharing ministries tax deduction act to provide a subtraction modification for qualified health care sharing expenses paid by a qualified individual and certain qualified health care shares received by a qualified individual.**

Chair Tyson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 368, the Kansas Health Care Sharing Ministries Tax Deduction Act.

My name is Chuck Weber, and I serve as Executive Director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Lifting and supporting families--the very foundation and bedrock of our culture--is a major focus of our public policy advocacy. Our advocacy on behalf of the family takes many forms. In this case, it is making family health care more affordable for those who choose a health care sharing ministry rather than insurance.

Why SB 368 matters

Next to the monthly rent or a mortgage payment, the cost of health care is very often the largest monthly expense for a typical Kansas family. Health insurance premiums and deductibles are growing out of reach. Many families prefer not to rely on government programs when there is a community-based option that fits their values and budget. When a family joins a health care sharing ministry (HCSM), they submit a payment that is their monthly "share." These dollars are then directed to other members who have qualified medical needs, and other members in turn help theirs.

HCSM members share common, sincerely held beliefs, and the ministry acts as a not-for-profit clearinghouse connecting those with medical bills and those willing to help pay them. It is important to note that members are still personally responsible for their own medical bills. But members are grateful to be able to participate in a program where like-minded families pray for each other and help shoulder large, unexpected expenses.

The provisions of SB 368 recognize that families participating in qualified health care sharing ministries are meeting their own health care needs and should not be penalized in the Kansas income tax code. **SB 368 would let members subtract**

from their Kansas adjusted gross income the amounts they pay for HCSM membership, including monthly shares for medical expenses and administrative fees. This is an act of basic fairness and equality for Kansas families who choose this path of health care coverage for their families.

Currently, health insurance premiums receive clear, favorable tax treatment, but HCSM shares and fees often lack parallel treatment even though the practical result—helping families pay their medical bills—is similar. Employers may deduct insurance premiums and employees typically receive them as a non-taxable fringe benefit, and self-employed individuals often may deduct their health insurance premiums on their federal and state returns.

By contrast, because HCSMs are explicitly not insurance and do not assume risk, their monthly shares and administrative fees do not neatly fit existing premium categories, leaving uncertainty and, effectively, a disadvantage for many families in the Kansas tax code. This bill simply closes that gap by giving HCSM members the same basic opportunity to subtract their health care contributions at the state level. For a large family on a tight budget, this kind of parity can mean the difference between being able to stay in an HCSM or having to make difficult choices about coverage or care.

It is important to note that this measure is not unique. States like Missouri and Indiana have adopted similar measures for health care sharing members.

Adopting SB 368 will allow families to subtract the cost of HCSM and related fees from adjusted gross income of Kansas families, reducing their state tax burden and freeing up resources for essentials like groceries, housing, and education. It will also help HCSM members to participate in a model of health care that has proven to be sustainable and community-oriented for us.

HCSM members do not ask government to pay for their health care expenses. They are respectfully asking that when Kansas families choose to meet their own health needs through a health care sharing ministry, the tax code recognizes those payments in a manner like health insurance premiums.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation that will help many Kansas families. Please vote “Yes” on SB 368 and give Kansas families using health care sharing ministries the support and tax fairness they deserve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Gerald “Chuck” Weber, Executive Director, at (316) 708-5350.

Sincerely,



Gerald C “Chuck” Weber

316-708-5350 Chuck@KansasCatholic.org