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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

Date: February 4, 2026

Written PROPONENT testimony for SB 421. Enacting the safeguarding personal expression at K-12 schools act to authorize students and student clubs or organizations to engage in certain speech or expression at school and providing a civil cause of action for violations of the act.

To: Madam Chair Senator Erickson and Senate Education Committee members

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

Madam Chair Erickson and members of the committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold and I serve as the policy specialist of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to show our support for SB 421.

As Christians, we recognize that we are made for truth. And thus, we are all bound to seek the truth. Especially the truth in the matters of religion. Seeking truth is so vital that it is a foundation to human dignity.

To seek truth, one must be able to speak freely. As freedom of speech is a precondition for our coming to know truth about God. It also allows us protection from the coercion of falsities.

Our Kansas students deserve the right to speak freely, especially when discussing religion or matters of religion. To stifle them of this opportunity, would be to limit their ability to learn, grow, and seek truth.

This is why the Kansas Catholic Conference supports SB 421.

Thank you,

Lucrecia Nold
Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference
lucrecia@kansascatholic.org