



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

January 15, 2026

To: Chair Senator Erickson and members of the Kansas Senate Education Committee

From: Chuck Weber, Kansas Catholic Conference

RE: **SUPPORT FOR SB 302** Requiring school districts to prohibit the use of personal electronic communication devices during instructional time and prohibiting any employee of a school district from using social media to directly communicate with any student for official school purposes.

The Kansas Catholic Conference is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Kansas. We welcome the opportunity to be heard on the proposed bill, SB 302.

This is a good piece of legislation that will benefit all Kansas families and students, including students who attend Catholic, private and public schools.

For many years now, Kansas Catholic schools have restricted the use of cell phones by students during instructional times. These policies help reduce the noise and distractions of the culture that very often come through screen time and digital media accessed on cell phones. Time spent in school is sacred and should be focused on learning.

While we offer a cautionary note about the prospect of any future overreach and unreasonable mandates on Catholic schools, the Kansas Catholic Conference supports SB 302.

Thank you.

Chuck Weber
Kansas Catholic Conference