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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

Oral PROPONENT testimony for HB 2426, AN ACT amending the women's bill of rights; defining the term "gender" to mean biological sex at birth for purposes of statutory construction; directing the director of the division of motor vehicles to invalidate and reissue driver's licenses when necessary to correct the gender identification on such licenses; directing the office of vital statistics to invalidate and reissue birth certificates when necessary to correct the sex identification on such certificates; removing the definition of "gender" from the help not harm act; amending K.S.A. 8-234a and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-243, 65-28,137 and 77-207 and repealing the existing sections.

TO: Madam Chair Representative Humphries and House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Lucrecia Nold, Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

DATE: January 13, 2026

Madam Chair Humphries and committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold and I am the Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. We fully support HB 2426.

As Christians we find our identity in God our creator- through Sacred Scripture, tradition, and biology. From the first book of the Bible, we read that we are created as male and female, in the image of God. ("God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."- Genesis 1:27)

This means we are created beings, created sons or daughters of God. Built to be in relationship with God, as we are both a body and soul. Our identity then is found within God himself; not what social societies tells us.

Our Christian identity, particularly through how we are biologically created, serves as a foundation for society to function safely and orderly. Allow me to elaborate a bit more.

It is in recognizing our God given biology, that allows us to remain safe and healthy. As it lets those who have been granted the responsibilities to protect and care for us accurate information to live out their mission. Examples of this would include:

Emergency Medical Technicians, Medical Staff: Medical professionals often need to know a patient's biological sex in order to provide proper care. If physical appearance and sex listed on a driver's license look and state one thing but the biology is another, this could postpone or prevent proper medical diagnosis and care. In a critical event, this could be the difference between life or death.

Law Enforcement/Public Safety: Biologically accurate data is also important for law enforcement, especially when needing to identify individuals in cases. This information also helps them to manage housing and properly provide housing for jail inmates, when needed.

Consistency under the law: For the clarity of the Kansas citizens and state agencies, we need to ensure that all legal documents stay consistent in their usage and term of gender and sex. This minimizes any possible confusion and conflicts.

In review, truly understanding our identity in Christ is essential and necessary to provide safety, security, and care for our Kansas citizens. HB 2426 aims to do just that, which is why the Kansas Catholic Conference is in full support. We encourage your support as well.

Thank you,

Lucrecia Nold
Policy Specialist
Kansas Catholic Conference
204 SW 8th Ave Topeka, KS 66603
lucrecia@kansascatholic.org