



Written PROPONENT testimony for SB 180 AN ACT establishing the women's bill of rights; providing a meaning of biological sex for purposes of statutory construction.

To: Madam Chair Representative Landwehr and Committee Members

From: Lucrecia Nold, Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

Date: March 6, 2023

Madam Chair Representative Landwehr and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 180, establishing the women's bill of rights.

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.

We recognize this through both faith and reason that the human person is male and female. This truth is confirmed by divine revelation (Gen. 1:27) and thus known by our human reason. While "being man" or "being woman" is a reality which is good and willed by God (CCC 369).

Pope St. John Paul II even noted that the differences between men's and women's bodies were not accidental, nor different merely for the sake of reproduction. He elaborated that our bodies themselves reveal God's intention for us. Therefore, to be male or to be female is first to be oriented to the other. Males and females are complementary toward each other. He elaborated even further, from his book *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*, "The account of the creation of man in Genesis 1 affirms from the beginning and directly that man was created in the image of God inasmuch as he is male and female... man became the image of God not only through his own humanity, but also through the communion of persons, which man and woman form from the very beginning."

As created beings- made in the image of God, it is only right that we continue to view the roles of male and female as it is given to us by the creator Himself. Therefore, the Kansas Catholic Conference offers its support in favor of SB 180 and ask favorably for your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

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