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KANSAS STATEHOUSE OFFICE  
Kansas Catholic Conference  
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**IN PERSON PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2136. AN ACT concerning education; relating to the tax credit for low-income student scholarship program; expanding eligibility therefor; eliminating the eligibility requirement that students shall have been previously enrolled in public school; increasing the tax credit for contributions made to such program; providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions; amending K.S.A. 72-4353 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-4352 and 72-4357 and repealing the existing sections.**

TO: Madam Chair Rep. Estes and members of the House Education Committee

FROM: Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

DATE: February 5, 2025

Dear Chair Estes and committee members,

My name is Chuck Weber, and I serve as the executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, where I represent the Catholic Bishops of Kansas in the area of public policy.

Thank you for allowing me to share our support for HB 2136.

The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the first and best educators of their children. This does not mean parents must personally educate their child, but it does mean they should be afforded as many options and pathways as possible toward that end. The Low-Income Tax Credit Scholarship program is one resource helping parents afford their preferred educational option.

Please let me be clear—the Catholic Church in Kansas supports strong public schools, including sufficient funding for public schools. We do not bring an “us vs. them” mentality to this discussion. But if our collective mission is the best educational environment possible for every child, we must face the reality that it is no longer enough to hope that our friends and colleagues in Kansas’ public school can educate each child equally well, despite their years of dedication.

Today’s children will come of age in a diverse and dynamic era. They deserve an equally diverse and dynamic educational setting now to give them the best chance of success. High-performing public schools will always be the goal, but trusting families to find the right place for their child is just as important. Expanding the Low-Income Tax Credit Scholarship program, as laid out in HB 2136, will help families afford this decision.

The citizenship, academic, social, and cultural opportunities provided at Catholic schools are vital to shaping Kansas into the community we want to be.

Please support HB 2136 and help make that happen.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2136. Please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chuck Weber

Executive Director

Kansas Catholic Conference

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