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**Oral PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2071. AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to healthcare of minors; enacting the help not harm act; prohibiting healthcare providers from treating a child whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex; authorizing a civil cause of action against healthcare providers for providing such treatments; restricting use of state funds to promote gender transitioning; prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for healthcare providers that provide gender transition treatment to children; requiring professional discipline against a healthcare provider who performs such treatments; adding violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians; amending K.S.A. 65-2837 and repealing the existing section.**

TO: Chair Carpenter and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

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

DATE: January 28, 2025

Dear Rep. Carpenter and committee members,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB 2071.

The Catholic Church teaches and invites us to love, respect and show compassion to all people. This includes people who do not share or embrace our view of the gift and beauty of human sexuality. Loving someone questioning their sexuality requires us to show them and remind them of who they are, a beloved child of God made in His image.

As Christians we find our identity in God our creator- through Sacred Scripture and tradition- as well as the reality of biology. This is true for all people. Separating one's biological sex from one's gender creates a situation where the person is in collision with themselves.

Pope Francis speaks eloquently about the dangers and harms of gender ideology. He reminds us that the distinctions between men and women, male and female, are Divine gifts. These gifts are to be nurtured with our children. Manipulating or changing these gifts through chemicals or surgery; "‘Destroy at its roots’ God's most basic plan for human beings: diversity, distinction. It would make everything homogenous, neutral. It is an attack on difference, on the creativity of God and on men and women." <sup>1</sup>

Allowing a person, especially a child, to participate in gender reassignment surgery or gender altering medication, would be a disservice to them. We must protect our children.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/12451/pope-francis-attacks-evil-of-gender-theory->

Let us love the person experiencing gender confusion by showing them who they were created to be- a son or daughter of God. The Kansas Catholic Conference supports HB 2071 and ask favorably for your support as well.

Thank you, Chair Carpenter and members of the committee for allowing me to provide support for HB 2071. Please feel free to reach out to me at the Kansas Catholic Conference for any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lucrecia Nold".

Lucrecia Nold  
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