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Kansas Catholic Conference
204 SW 8th Ave.
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Date: March 3, 2025

To: Kansas House Judiciary Committee Chair Susan Humphries and committee members

From: Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

RE: WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR SB 71, Increasing the criminal penalties for buying sexual relations, removing provisions regarding city ordinances prohibiting buying sexual relations, requiring certain offenders to complete an educational or treatment program regarding commercial sexual exploitation and requiring the attorney general to approve such programs in consultation with the office of judicial administration.

Madam Chair Humphries and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony in favor of SB 71. If passed into law, the elements of SB 71 will represent a bold step forward in the struggle to identify, stigmatize and help eradicate the scourge of human trafficking in Kansas.

Survivors of human trafficking are commonly linked by poverty and lack of opportunity. They are also connected by their desperation and their perception of migration as an accessible escape route. They very often seek to escape life in an oppressive living environment, with the false hope of finding opportunity and a brighter future elsewhere.

Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feeds it and aggressively prosecuting those people who benefit from the exploitation of vulnerable human beings. Passage of SB 71 is legislation that will help attain that goal and we urge your support.

Gerald C. "Chuck" Weber

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