SEEKING JUSTICE IN PUBLIC POLICY

KANSAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, D.D. Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Board Chairman

Most Reverend John B. Brungardt, D.D. Diocese of Dodge City

Most Reverend Carl A. Kemme, D.D. Diocese of Wichita

Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke, S.T.L. Diocese of Salina

Mr. Chuck Weber Executive Director

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 Date: January 29, 2025

To: Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Kellie Warren 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 Warren and members of the Senate 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

lurg Welen

Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

316-708-5350

Chuck@KansasCatholic.org