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**Testimony in Support of HB 2253**

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**House Federal and State Affairs Committee**

February 20, 2013  
9:00 AM

Chairman Siegfried and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Catholic Conference strongly supports HB 2253.

HB 2253 takes important steps to ensure that Kansan's hard-earned taxpayer dollars are not used to finance abortion. In addition to forbidding the use of state money for abortion, it also prevents tax credits from being applied towards abortion, or being claimed by organizations that perform abortion.

Additionally, HB 2253 bars the state from discriminating against any health care provider that declines involvement in abortion. In a time when the conscience rights of individuals and institutions opposed to abortion are under attack, this language is needed and most welcome.

We appreciate the bill's inclusion of informed consent information that reaffirms the outstanding work of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and its "Women's Right to Know" website.

We also support the bill's inclusion of language that will keep abortion providers out of schools' sex education classes. Parents already face enough challenges trying to raise their children at a time when the commanding heights of the culture are held by forces deeply hostile to traditional values. They should not have to worry that their children are being "educated" on fundamental questions of human sexuality by legally and morally compromised organizations that destroy innocent human beings for money.

Finally, we applaud HB 2253's language indicating that "the life of each human being begins at fertilization" and that the "life, health, and well-being" of "unborn children" should be protected. Codification of these principles is legally, scientifically, and morally sound. State law should be on the side of protecting and preserving human life, each and every one of which is unique and irreplaceable.

We ask for your support of HB 2253. Thank you for your consideration.

MOST REVEREND MICHAEL O. JACKELS, S.T.D.  
DIOCESE OF WICHITA

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN, D.D.  
*Chairman of Board*  
ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

MOST REVEREND JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, D.D.  
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