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Testimony in Support of HB 2199 Michael Schuttloffel Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

House Education Committee February 17, 2015 1:30 PM

Chairman Highland and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Catholic Conference supports HB 2199.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. This is especially true with respect to the very sensitive issue of human sexuality. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that parents' wishes are respected when it comes to the sexual education of their children.

Passage of HB 2199 would have the effect of changing the "default settings" in sexual education policy towards increased parental control. The bill would also make clear that parents have a right to see what instructional materials are being used in sexual education classes at school.

If we can support parents by adding an extra layer of protection for parental choice, we should do so. The Kansas Catholic Conference supports this change and we appreciate the committee's consideration.