



FAMILY SERVICE &
GUIDANCE CENTER

March 12, 2024

Re: Testimony supporting HB 2300 Mandated Reporters

Thank you Members of House Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Kathy Mosher, Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist and CEO of Family Service and Guidance Center, which is a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Topeka, KS. We have specialized in the mental health treatment of youth and families for over 50 years.

My understanding of this bill is that it protects youth by adding clergymen to the list of mandated reporters of abuse. As a born and raised Catholic, it appears that this bill still protects the sanctity and confidentiality of what is said in confession. Often allegations are reported to clergymen by a concerned person, or by a child seeking help from a trusted adult outside of confession, much like what happens with teachers.

Clergyman, like mental health professionals and doctors, are revered as safe and trusted adults, so it makes sense that clergyman should be held to the same high professional standard as any other mandated reporter. I support HB 2300 and thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Mosher, LCP and CEO

Family Service and Guidance Center

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