



Legislative Testimony
Charles L. McKinzie II, Sr. Pastor
Grace United Methodist Church of Winfield, KS
HB 2300 Clergy Mandatory Reporting

Kansas Policymakers –

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2300.

I am Pastor Charles McKinzie and have the honor of serving the parish of Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield, KS. Grace is a historic congregation established in 1888. This congregation has always been steeped in the Methodist traditions established by John Wesley. One of these core ideals has always been the protection of the vulnerable.

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church states, "...children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional and sexual exploitation and abuse." (§1 162.C, The 2012 Book of Discipline) The Book of Resolutions encourages all conferences to become involved in the prevention of the physical and sexual abuse of children (#3084.B. 2012 Book of Resolutions, p. 241) The 2012 Book of Discipline names child abuse, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment as chargeable offenses for clergy and lay members (§12702, 2012 Book of Discipline).

As a result, the United Methodist denomination takes numerous steps to protect children and vulnerable adults. One of those steps is to require all clergy as well as volunteers to report abuse or neglect to police or proper authorities. Section G of the bill which addresses clergy is broad and gives ample room for penitential privacy to be maintained. There is no reasonable argument against passing this legislation. It is common sense to ask Clergy, who hold sacred trust to care for their people, to report abuse being done to a child.

Please hold us as clergy to the standards of care which should be the bare minimum for all persons of the cloth. Together, we can protect this vulnerable group.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam,

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