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Written PROPONENT TESTIMONY for HB 2135: AN ACT concerning taxation; relating to income, privilege, and premium tax credits; establishing a tax credit for contributions to eligible charitable organizations operating pregnancy centers or residential maternity facilities.

To: House Taxation Chair Adam Smith and members of the Committee

From: Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

Date: February 2, 2023

Chairman Smith and members of the Committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold and I serve as the Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent to bill HB 2135.

This week a woman discovered she was pregnant. For most, this discovery is a moment full of excitement, joy, and thanksgiving for answered prayers. However, for many women, the reality of being pregnant is a moment of fear, confusion, and uncertainty. Many women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy might not have a support system, financial stability, or even a home. Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC's) and Maternity Homes offer hope to these women, who have nowhere to turn.

PRC's and Maternity Homes throughout the state of Kansas offer supportive and non-judgmental options for women who find themselves overwhelmed and scared. These women, regardless of religious background, have a variety of services available to them via a PRC or Maternity Home. These services may include ultrasounds, OB/GYN referrals, parenting classes, job training, housing assistance, diapers, formula, and more. All of these resources are provided at no expense to the expecting or new mother.

Though free for the mother, all the provided resources do come at an expense to the PRC's and Maternity Homes. The funds to support these entities are dependent upon charitable donations from everyday Kansans.

Unfortunately, the amounts donated to the PRC's and Maternity Homes, often isn't enough. These entities often cut short the full extent of services they can provide because of a lack of dependable funding. This is where funds from donors utilizing the tax credit can become a game changer. Offering a tax credit to donors, helps open the door for higher and additional donations. This translates into more women and children who can be served and supported through a PRC and/or Maternity Home.

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As Pope Francis has stated, *"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor...deserve the utmost reverence and respect."* Women who have found themselves in a moment of vulnerability, fear, and uncertainty deserve our support and respect. They deserve to know that their fellow Kansans are here to support them. This is why the Kansas Catholic Conference offers our support of HB 2135.

Contact: Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference [lucrecia@kansascatholic.org](mailto:lucrecia@kansascatholic.org)