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**Written PROPONENT testimony for HB 2488 AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to assisting suicide; providing criminal penalties for intentionally advising or encouraging another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide; amending K.S.A. 21-5407 and repealing the existing section.**

To: Madam Chair Representative Humphries and committee members

From: Lucrecia Nold, Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

January 31, 2024

Madam Chair Humphries and members of the committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the 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 2488.

Paragraph 2281 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life. It is gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations. Suicide is contrary to love for the living God."

The Catholic Church not only recognizes the gravity of suicide but also that of assisted suicide. People struggling with the desire to end their own life need to be reminded of their value, worth and dignity. Thus, we are called to show compassion and dignity to those with suicidal thoughts, instead of aiding in their misguided desires. This is further shown by St. Augustine who states, "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it..."

To learn more of the Catholic Church's teaching about suicide and assisted suicide, please check out The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops article titled "[To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide](#)" or Pope John Paul II's encyclical titled "[Evangelium Vitae](#)".

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee, for allowing me to provide support for HB 2488. Please feel free to reach out to me at the Kansas Catholic Conference for any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Lucrecia Nold

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