



204 SW 8TH AVE • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603 • PHONE 785-227-9247 • FAX 785-861-7438 • WWW.KSCATHCONF.ORG

## **Proponent Testimony for HB2614 – Providing a Child Tax Credit**

### **House Committee on Taxation**

Jeanette Pryor, Legislative Assistant, Kansas Catholic Conference

March 13, 2018

Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Bishops of Kansas, the Kansas Catholic Conference stands in strong support of HB2614 – Providing a Child Tax Credit.

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church states, “The family is at the center of life in society...every social model that intends to serve the good of man must not overlook the centrality and social responsibility of the family.”

Our Kansas families are the foundation of our State, the solidity of which determines the quality of our lives and future. One challenge facing Kansas parents is the high cost of raising children; the USDA reports child-related expenditures at an average of \$12,900 per child/yr. Acquiring this requires countless sacrifices on the part of the parents.

The quoted Compendium also stresses the importance of ensuring workers are able to earn, “a wage sufficient to maintain a family and allow it to live decently...there can be several different ways to make a family wage a concrete reality. Various forms of important social provisions help to bring it about, for example, family subsidies and other contributions for dependent family members. . .”

HB2614 argues for one such program. The credit proposed lowers the “Parent Tax,” the greater contribution to the State’s revenue on the part of parents that increases with the number of children in the family. This revenue accrues to the State, for example, through sales taxes paid on more numerous purchases made in the care of the children. A Child Tax Credit helps off-set this

MOST REVEREND JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, D.D.  
DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN, D.D.  
*Board Chairman*  
ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

MOST REVEREND CARL A. KEMME, D.D.  
DIOCESE OF WICHITA

VERY REVEREND FRANCIS E. COADY, S.T.D.  
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR – DIOCESE OF SALINA

MICHAEL M. SCHUTTLOFFEL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

increased burden and demonstrates the State's sense of shared investment in the future of Kansas.

The Child Tax Credit is pro-work and one of the most effective antipoverty programs which help the children of working poor families. The American Enterprise Institute reports that the Federal Child Tax Credit lifts nearly 3,000,000 people out of poverty every year<sup>25</sup> and, while the Kansas Credit is not as substantial, it would provide similar benefits, including positive impacts on the health and scholastic performance of children in low-income families.

The Kansas Catholic Conference thanks you for considering this legislation and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable recommendation of HB2614.