



TO: Judiciary Committee
FROM: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
DATE: February 19, 2026
RE: LB978 (Civil actions against conduct relating to obscene material,
child sexual abuse material, and child sexual exploitation devices)
(Support)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church and advances the Gospel of Life through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. I am here to express the Conference's support for LB978.

LB978 would provide for civil action against a person who allows or facilitates access to child sexual abuse material and other obscenity on the Internet, or who sells, disseminates, creates, or develops such material. Someone who is depicted in or exposed to this material—material that I think we all agree must be condemned in the strongest terms—would be able to bring a civil action and seek relief against the person(s) responsible for this material's creation, development, and/or dissemination. A similar cause of civil action would be created for a minor who is depicted by a device or image that is created for sexual gratification.

In its teaching on "The Family and Society," the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "the political community has a duty to honor the family, to assist it, and to ensure especially ... the protection of security and health, especially with respect to dangers [including] pornography"¹ (and which extends logically to "obscenity" as defined by law). It goes on to state that since exposure to pornography and obscenity "does grave injury to the dignity of its participants"—actors, victims, vendors, and the members of the public—"civil authorities should prevent [this material's] production and distribution."²

If this is true for people in general, it is true in an even graver way for children, especially where the danger goes beyond exposure to pornography or obscenity to *depiction in it*. The duty of civil authorities to protect children from these harms is serious and urgent.

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 2211.

² *Ibid.* no. 2354.

Two years ago, Pope Francis called on the world to “defend love—love of the heart, mind and body”³—against that which would poison the bonds that exist between human beings. Children—those whose minds, hearts, and sense of self are especially vulnerable—must be guarded particularly against those poisons, which can negatively affect them and their relationships for life. We respectfully urge that you advance LB978 to General File.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

³ Pope Francis, General Audience, January 17, 2024.