



To: Revenue Committee
From: Tom Venzor, Executive Director
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Date: February 4, 2026
Re: LB1131 (Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking Service Providers Tax Credit) (Support)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. We offer our support for LB1131 and the need for increased support for service providers who are assisting victims and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

In his address on the 50th World Day of Peace, Pope Francis said the following in his call for an end to domestic abuse and violence and for peace within the home: “If violence has its source in the human heart, then it is fundamental that nonviolence be practiced before all else within families.... The family is the indispensable crucible in which spouses, parents and children, brothers and sisters, learn to communicate and to show generous concern for one another, and in which frictions and even conflicts have to be resolved not by force but by dialogue, respect, concern for the good of the other, mercy and forgiveness. From within families, the joy of love spills out into the world and radiates to the whole of society.... I plead with equal urgency for an end to domestic violence and to the abuse of women and children.... The politics of nonviolence have to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family.”¹

Like Pope Francis, the three Nebraska Bishops have underscored the need for the Nebraska Catholic Conference to increase public advocacy to end domestic violence and human trafficking, and they see LB1131 as a key component to that goal. As you have already heard, the Catholic Church in Nebraska has been engaged, for decades, in the critical, charitable work to accompany, care, and shelter those fleeing and recovering from domestic violence and trafficking. It is this intimate, daily experience of support for victims and survivors that drives our advocacy on LB1131.

LB1131 is a targeted and reasonable tax policy. Tax credits are a prudent way for the state to provide more economic freedom for taxpayers to direct their private

¹ Pope Francis, 50th World Day of Peace, “Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace,” 2017, paragraph 5, accessible at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20161208_messaggio-1-giornata-mondiale-pace-2017.html (last accessed on January 20, 2026).

dollars to a notable, worthy, and needed cause. The NCC has seen tax credit programs work effectively in other important areas, like school choice and for pregnancy help organizations, to provide targeted support for those who have a particular need. LB1131 could be similarly successful.

As the saying goes, “the government cannot love.” But it can implement policies that empower and support real people and community leaders—like domestic violence and human trafficking service providers—to do the daily work of charity that is necessary for the flourishing of our state.

As the U.S. Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has stated regarding domestic violence: “Persons experiencing domestic violence are often termed ‘victims,’ or if the situation has resolved, ‘survivors,’ but it is important to recall they are children of God, with inherent dignity and deserving our love and respect. This is especially true because as abused persons they are often plagued by feelings of shame, fear, and depression, and have lost sight of the essential fact of their dignity and worthiness to be loved.”

By advancing LB1131, this committee will increase the capacity of service providers—like Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services—to encounter and accompany those who have experienced domestic violence and help them restore their identity as children of God, as a unique, unrepeatable person who is truly loved and fully deserving of unconditional love by those around her. There are few tax policies that can achieve this kind of noble end.

We strongly urge the Revenue Committee to find a pathway forward for LB1131. Thank you for your time and consideration.