



TO: Judiciary Committee
FROM: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
DATE: February 6, 2025
RE: LB172 (Update to Child Pornography Prevention Act) (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.

The Conference supports LB172, which would make needed updates to the Child Pornography Prevention Act. LB172 includes realistic computer-generated images as a type of “visual depiction” that can be recognized as a form of what constitutes child pornography.

Computer-generated pornography, much of it portraying children, has become prevalent and needs to be addressed. These depictions, meant to represent real people, can be quite sophisticated and truly impossible for most people to distinguish from a real photograph or video.

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 It goes on to state that since pornography “does grave injury to the dignity of its participants”—actors, vendors, and the public—“civil authorities should prevent [its] production and distribution.”² If these things are true for people in general, they are true in an even graver way for children, especially where the danger goes beyond exposure to pornography to *depiction in* pornography. The duty of civil authorities to protect them is serious and urgent.

Last year, 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 ask you to advance LB172.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

² *Ibid.* no. 2354.

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