



TO: Transportation and Telecommunications Committee  
FROM: Tom Venzor, Nebraska Catholic Conference  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
DATE: February 1, 2021  
RE: LB226 (Motor Vehicle Tax Exemptions Repeal) (Oppose)

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 opposition comments we offer on LB226 are based on the green (introduced) copy. We understand Sen. Hilkemann is working to tighten up LB226's underlying concept and language. We will remain attentive and interested in any amendments that develop.

Sen. Hilkemann raises a notable concern about possible abuses of the motor vehicle tax exemption, namely, that entities under §77-802(1)(c) or (d) might purchase and utilize vehicles whose value is not appropriate to the work of, say, a non-profit charitable organization.

In speaking with some of our diocesan chief financial officers, their experience is that this type of abuse is not occurring within our parishes and schools.

However, we do have concerns with LB226 as introduced. The term "motor vehicle" is a broad term. In light of the \$28,000 cap on motor vehicle tax exemptions, the term raises concerns about certain types of vehicles that generally cost more to purchase, such as buses, 10- and 12-passenger vans, and maintenance trucks. While we do our best to be good stewards of our resources and frugal with the types of vehicles we purchase, there could be any number of motor vehicles that would easily surpass the \$28,000 threshold set in this legislation, thereby imposing a financial burden for the purchase of such vehicles. We appreciate and understand this is one of the issues Sen. Hilkemann and his office are working to resolve.

Also, we'd be remiss not to mention that the NCC typically opposes any changes to tax exemptions for non-profit educational, religious, charitable, and cemetery organizations. These organizations make significant social, economic, moral, and spiritual contributions to their communities. Exemptions exist to help ensure a separation of the state's intrusion on a religious organization's purpose and mission. With that said, we do not condone any misuse or abuse of these exemptions and recognize Sen. Hilkemann's underlying intention to remedy such problems.

The Nebraska Catholic Conference respectfully requests that you make this letter part of the public hearing record.

Thank you for your time and consideration!