

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

May 19, 2022

Written Proponent Testimony HB 142 House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee

Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Brian Hickey, and I am an Associate Director at the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The Conference is the official representative of the Catholic Church in Ohio in matters of public policy. We support House Bill 142 regarding doula services.

The Catholic Church desires and is committed to promoting and acting on a vision of society that stands with mothers during and after pregnancy through personal accompaniment and pro-family public policies. We appreciate that HB 142 seeks to enact both of these principles and increase the likelihood of better health outcomes through expansive access to qualified doulas.

Additionally, Catholic Social Teaching affirms the need for society to enact policies and invest in programs that provide a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. We thank the primary and cosponsors of this bill for their intent to help more mothers receive accompaniment through qualified doulas and combat disparities in maternal health, especially for those most in need. We urge you to pass HB 142 and encourage the General Assembly to continue considering pro-family policies and programs that affirm life, so all Ohioans can flourish and contribute to the common good.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.