



# CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

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February 28, 2023

**Written Proponent Testimony HB 34  
House Civil Justice Committee**

Chair Hillyer, Vice-Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Brian Hickey. I am the Executive Director of 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 34 regarding excusing breastfeeding mothers from jury service.

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 34 seeks to recognize the needs of mothers with young children through this bill and make necessary accommodations to jury service. We would also support expanding this bill to include mothers of children older than one year of age if proposed by members of this committee.

The Catholic Conference thanks Rep. Klopfenstein and Rep. King for sponsoring this bill. We urge you to pass HB 34 and encourage the General Assembly to continue considering pro-family policies and programs that recognize the needs of young children and women so that all Ohioans can flourish through every stage of development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.