



**Proponent Testimony SB 159
Senate Finance Committee
Catholic Conference of Ohio
February 27th, 2024**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today. My name is Will Kuehnle, and I am an associate director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The Catholic Conference is the official voice of the Catholic Church in Ohio on matters of public policy, and we are pleased to support Senate Bill 159, which would authorize a tax credit for donations to pregnancy resource centers.

Pregnancy Resource Centers are a vital resource for women seeking assistance during pregnancy. SB 159 would encourage directing funds to organizations whose efforts to support women with material resources, counseling, and personal accompaniment are a heroic witness to the dignity of women and their preborn children. Every child, at every moment of life, deserves love and support; every woman, in every circumstance, deserves accompaniment and assistance. Pregnancy Resource Centers recognize both of these moral imperatives.

Approximately one in seven Ohio women of reproductive age has visited a pregnancy resource center, supported by the donations and philanthropy of individuals and organizations whose pro-life and pro-woman convictions open their eyes to the necessity of their services. Studies in Ohio have shown that black women and women of low socio-economic status are more likely to visit a pregnancy resource center. Given the plight of maternal health outcomes in Ohio by race and class, it is obvious that pregnancy resource centers are invaluable institutions serving women most in need.

Pregnancy Resource Centers, or PRCs, give unparalleled credibility to pro-life witness. These institutions After the tragic passing of Issue 1, the Catholic Church is committed to making Ohio a state where seeking an abortion is unthinkable. The support SB 159 would make available to PRCs would vastly increase the material, communal, and personal supports these institutions could offer. For this reason, we would also support expanding this bill to remove the \$10 million cap on this tax credit.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer your questions.