



**Proponent Testimony HB 34
Senate Judiciary Committee
Catholic Conference of Ohio
January 24, 2024**

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Will Kuehnle. I am the Associate Director for Social Concerns 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.