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KANSAS STATEHOUSE OFFICE  
Kansas Catholic Conference  
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**Written PROPONENT testimony, SB 431** Directing the capitol preservation committee to approve plans for a memorial honoring Emil Joseph Kapaun.

Date: February 14, 2024

To: Senator Mike Thompson, Chairman, Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

Senator Thompson and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

My name is Chuck Weber, and I serve as Executive Director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas.

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 431**, the first step in the legislative process for approval of plans for the placement of a memorial in the Kansas Statehouse honoring Kansas native son Chaplain Father Emil Kapaun.

There can be little doubt that in our times we need exemplary role models for living. We submit to you today that the life and example of Chaplain Father Emil Kapaun is most worthy of recognition for all Kansans.

Awarded with the Medal of Honor by President Obama, Father Kapaun's heroism, patriotism and self-sacrifice serve as a shining light to all people. We enthusiastically support efforts of the Kansas Legislature and the Capitol Preservation Committee to move forward with plans that we hope will ultimately lead to the placement of a memorial in the Kansas Statehouse so that Chaplain Father Kapaun's story may continue to serve as an inspiration for all people for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthy project.

Gerald C. "Chuck" Weber  
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