



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 15, 2023

The Hon. Robert Lynn, Chair  
And Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: **CACR 2 (Constitutional Right to Abortion)**

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

As the Director of the Office of Public Policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, I write to respectfully register our **opposition to CACR 2**, which seeks to establish a constitutional right to abortion in New Hampshire by stating that “an individual’s right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s own life course...”

I suspect that most people in New Hampshire, regardless of political or religious persuasion, share a concern that the fundamental principles of human dignity and solidarity are beset by many challenges today. I ask the Committee to consider this question:

**Will the work of building up human dignity and solidarity be advanced by the adoption of a constitutional amendment which effectively declares certain human beings to be disposable?**

The answer to this question seems obvious. Pope Francis (for one) has put it like this:

[The] defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. **Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.**

Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter *The Joy of the Gospel*, 213 (2013).



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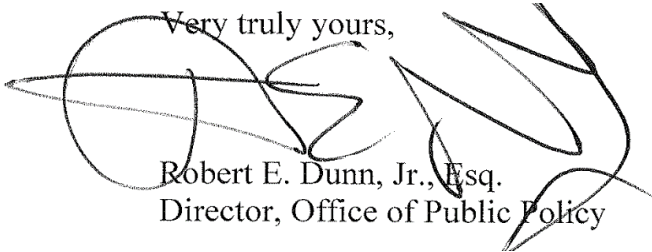
As further evidence of why this proposal would be so harmful to the common good, it needs to be recognized just what is actually encompassed by CACR 2. Because on its face the proposed language covers all abortions of any type, then among the abortions that this proposal would presumptively deem as “central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s life course” would be abortions up to the moment of birth, abortions done for purposes of sex selection, and abortions done because the unborn child is presumed to have a disability.

History teaches us the consequences of what happens when the state declares that certain human beings are “unworthy of life.” Proposals like this have repercussions in areas other than abortion. If we begin to ask society to consider certain ones of us as expendable, we cannot be surprised when society begins to treat certain ones of us as expendable.

Thus, we respectfully urge the Committee to recommend ITL on CACR 2.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. Dunn, Jr., Esq.  
Director, Office of Public Policy