



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Joseph Hagan, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 578 (Relative to Banning Abortions after Viability)

Dear Representative Hagan and Members of the Judiciary 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 express our support for **HB 578**. Except in the case of a medical emergency, this bill would prohibit abortions of a viable unborn child.

The Catholic Church teaches that every child, at the moment of existence, deserves the love and protection of the law. As Pope Francis has said, "Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." *Message to Catholics in Great Britain and Ireland for their Annual Day of Life, July 17, 2013.*

This bill does not ban all abortions but instead seeks to address those taking place later in pregnancy when an unborn child is viable. Public opinion polls consistently reveal that Americans support restrictions on late-term abortions. It is time for New Hampshire to pass a restriction at the time of viability and save human lives.

Accordingly, we urge you to recommend this bill as ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration of our position and for your service to the people of the State of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meredith Cook".

Meredith P. Cook, Esq.
Director, Office of Public Policy

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