



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Mark Pearson, Chair
And Members of the House HHS Committee
107 North Main Street – Room 205
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Via e-mail only

Re: HB 1654 (Relative to Abortion Statistics)

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

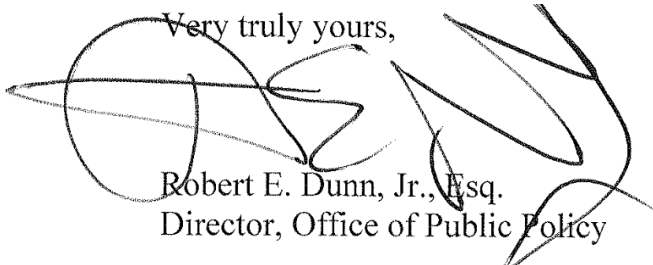
As Director of the Office of Public Policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, I write to register our **support for HB 1654**.

The State of New Hampshire appears to be one of the last states in the country that does not collect statistics about abortions. There is no reason why New Hampshire should be so out of step in this important area.

It seems obvious that the collection of these statistics would be beneficial toward the improvement of public health in this state. One area which might be singled out in particular is the effort to reduce teen pregnancy in New Hampshire. Because we do not collect and report abortion statistics, we do not know if the teen pregnancy rate includes teens who have become pregnant and had an abortion. It seems incontrovertible that the absence of these statistics means the absence of fully accurate information upon which to target programs designed to prevent teen pregnancies or to provide other types of support.

Thus, HB 1654 advances human dignity and the common good, and we respectfully urge you to **recommend the bill as ought to pass**. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,



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