

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Secretariat for Administration and Community Affairs

April 12, 2012

Senator Jeb Bradley
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
107 North Main Street – Room 102
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 1659 (Women's Right to Know Act Regarding Abortion Information)

Dear Senator Bradley and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others; to guarantee the right to life for all and in an equal manner for all is the duty upon which the future of humanity depends.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to General Association of Pontifical Academy for Life, 2007.

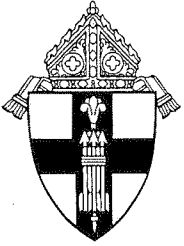
As the Director of the Office of Public Policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, I want to register our support for **HB 1659**. This legislation establishes a woman's right to know regarding abortion, and thus, it will protect and advance life and human dignity on two fronts: the life of the unborn child and the life and well-being of the woman who might undergo an abortion.

To some large degree, the abortion industry relies on the obscuring of the fundamental and indisputable fact that abortion kills a human being. The massive loss of life which is attendant to abortion in this country, however, is compounded by the impacts on the women who become involved with the abortion industry. It is sheer folly to operate as if abortion has little in the way of consequences.

If we as Americans must at least for the present, live with a legal system which permits abortions to occur, we have a right to demand that for the good of the unborn child and the good of the mother, the full impact of abortion be known. It is manifestly not in the best interests of a woman to undergo this life-changing medical procedure without being fully informed of the true consequences of that procedure and potential alternatives.

Pope John Paul II said in his encyclical letter *The Gospel of Life*:

A society lacks solid foundations when on the one hand it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which a human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.



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We urge you to stand up for the dignity of every human life, and vote that **HB 1659** ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and for your service to the people 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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