

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

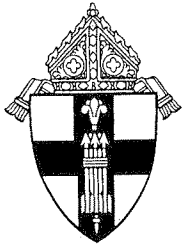
Re: HB 1679 (Relative to Partial-Birth Abortion)

Dear Senator Bradley and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services 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 1679**. This bill would, in most instances, outlaw partial-birth abortions, a particularly cruel procedure that ends the lives of children who are inches away from birth.

Partial-birth abortion is the name the United States Congress has used to describe a procedure that crosses the line from abortion to infanticide. The doctor delivers a substantial portion of the living child outside of the mother's body then kills the child by crushing his or her skull or removing the child's brain by suction. HB 1679 prevents this horrific procedure while still addressing concerns of constitutionality by narrowly defining partial-birth abortion as an abortion in which the person performing the abortion: (a) Deliberately and intentionally vaginally delivers a living fetus until, in the case of a head-first presentation, the entire fetal head is outside the body of the mother, or, in the case of breech presentation, any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother, for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living fetus; and (b) Performs the overt act, other than completion of delivery, that kills the partially delivered fetus.

It is no mere chance that the Founding Fathers enumerated life as the first of the rights which they said were endowed by the Creator. In keeping with this founding principle of our nation, the Catholic Church believes that life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. We will continue to work toward the creation of a society where abortion is outlawed entirely. In the meantime, we support measures like HB 1679 which are intended to minimize the occasions when abortions may be committed.



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We urge you to reject the indefensible and inhumane practice of partial-birth abortions and vote that **HB 1679** 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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