



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Secretariat for Administration and Community Affairs

April 26, 2012

Senator Matthew Houde
Senate Judiciary Committee
107 North Main Street – Room 101
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 217 (Amending the First and Second Degree Murder Statutes and the Negligent Homicide Statute to Include Causing the Death of a Fetus)

Dear Senator Houde and Members of the Senate 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 urge you to support **HB 217**. This bill would include unborn children in the current laws concerning first and second degree murder.

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 time of natural death. The death of a pre-born child caused by a violent act, therefore, is equal to the death of any other person.

Passing this bill will recognize that there are two victims when a pregnant woman loses her baby due to a violent act, and you can honor both victims by voting that HB 217 ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

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