



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Secretariat for Administration

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Marjorie Smith
House Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 483 (Relative to Information Regarding Abortion)

Dear Representative Smith and Members of the Judiciary 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 write to register our support for **HB 483**. This legislation requires the physician performing an abortion, or the referring physician, to provide the pregnant woman with certain information at least 24 hours prior to the abortion and therefore will protect and advance life and dignity on two fronts: the life of the unborn child and the life and well-being of the woman who might undergo an abortion.

If we as Americans, at least for the present, must 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 risks of abortion be known. It is 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. As the United States Supreme Court has noted, "The medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of an abortion are serious and can be lasting" *H.L. v. Matheson*, 450 U.S. 52, 67 (1976).



We urge you to stand up for the dignity of every human life and vote that **HB 483** ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Very truly yours,

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

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

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