



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 19, 2025

Hon. Wayne MacDonald, Chair
And Members of the House HHS Committee
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HCR 7 (Seeking to State That Abortion is a “Critical Component of Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care”)

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the 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 respectfully register our opposition to HCR 7, which would make the claim that abortion is a “critical component of comprehensive reproductive health care.”

I want to briefly discuss just three of the reasons why we object to HCR 7.

HCR 7 wrongly equates abortion with health care.

HCR 7 seeks to equate abortion with health care. This is manifestly untrue. Health care is life-affirming and life-giving. Abortion indisputably involves the intentional ending of a human life. Killing is not health care.

Even eugenics-based abortions are among the abortions that HCR 7 would declare to be “a critical component of comprehensive reproductive health care.”

We need to remember just what New Hampshire law currently permits. Because the law as it stands contains no restrictions on when or why abortions can be performed in the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, the reality is that the abortions which HCR 7 would bless include abortions done (for example) for purposes of sex selection, or because of a finding of Down syndrome, or any genetic abnormalities. Abortions done for purely eugenics-based reasons would be among the abortions considered by HCR 7 as “critical components of health care.”

The promotion of abortion is harmful to the defense of human rights and human dignity.

I suspect that most people in New Hampshire, regardless of political or religious persuasion, share a concern that the fundamental principles of human dignity and solidarity are beset by many challenges today. How exactly would the work of building dignity and solidarity be advanced by the passage of a resolution that declares in effect that certain human beings are disposable? I ask the Committee to carefully consider these important insights from Pope Francis:

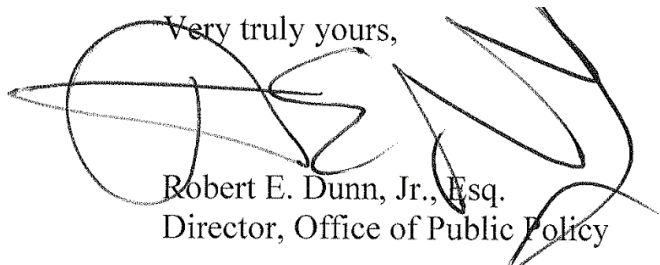
[The] defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.

Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter *The Joy of the Gospel*, 213 (2013).

We need to face up to the fact that what happens with abortion resonates across the whole spectrum of public policy. Human dignity is an indivisible principle. If we want our society to respect and value the child who is a refugee, or the child who is homeless, or the child who does not have access to health care, then we need to ensure that society respects and values the child in the womb as well. Once we ask society to designate certain ones of us as expendable, we should not be surprised if society begins to treat certain ones of us as expendable.

Therefore, I urge the Committee to vote ITL on HCR 7.

Thank you as always for your kind consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,

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