



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Secretariat for Administration

January 12, 2016

The Honorable Frank Kotowski, Chair
House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee
107 North Main Street – Room 205
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HJR 3 (Calling for investigation and defunding of Planned Parenthood)

Dear Members of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs 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 you concerning HJR 3. This resolution includes a call for an investigation of abortion providers for potential violations of state laws.

As you likely are aware, over the summer, it was revealed that Planned Parenthood traffics in fetal tissue and organs from abortions and alters abortion methods not for any reason related to women's health but to obtain more "intact" organs. This shocking conduct is an affront to women and goes far beyond what Pope Francis has condemned as our modern "Throwaway Culture." This unspeakable practice ignores the dignity of the unwanted, purposely destroyed child. We welcome investigations into whether any abortion provider in New Hampshire is violating state laws, including the collection and distribution of fetal tissue and body parts from aborted infants.

We come to this issue from a perspective rooted in our experiences. Through the work of Catholic Charities New Hampshire and the generous donations of the Catholic faithful, the Catholic Church in the Granite State has helped pregnant women find life-affirming alternatives to abortion. In addition, our Catholic hospitals and healthcare providers provide women with affordable, quality health care that respects the sanctity of life.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

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