



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 14, 2013

Dear Members of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee:

As this new legislative session begins, I thank you for your service to our State. You have faced serious issues confronting the health of our communities and our most vulnerable citizens, and you will deliberate on complex legislation in the months ahead. My prayerful best wishes are with you in this arduous task.

Before you today is HR 6, a resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision of the United State Supreme Court “and affirming support for its holding and principles.” The resolution purports to speak on behalf of the State of New Hampshire as a whole in supporting abortion and the holding of *Roe v. Wade*.

I urge you to oppose this resolution because while the resolution claims to state what New Hampshire believes, the resolution in actuality offends the closely-held beliefs of many of New Hampshire’s citizens.

Whether one agrees with *Roe* or disagrees with *Roe*, it would be hard to deny that *Roe* is a deeply divisive decision. As evidenced by the many conflicting opinions stated by dissenting Justices in *Roe* and in later cases, it cannot even be said that the Supreme Court itself is of one mind concerning *Roe*. How then can this resolution purport to speak for the people of New Hampshire?

I want to remind you who it is that this resolution does not speak for. This resolution fails to speak for the significant number of New Hampshire citizens who believe that abortion is unalterably immoral because it is a violent procedure that attacks and destroys an innocent human life and flies in the face of human dignity. It does not speak for the parents and family members of the victims of abortion. And above all, this resolution does not speak for the tens of millions of innocent children who have lost their lives since the *Roe* decision. To pass a resolution such as this would be deeply offensive to the core beliefs of many citizens of New Hampshire – your own constituents.

It is my sincere hope that you will swiftly vote down this resolution, so that you may return your attention to where it needs to be: how we as the body politic of New Hampshire are going to care for the most vulnerable in our society – the poor, the elderly, the ill, and all who are in need.

Grateful for your consideration of these thoughts and with deep appreciation for your service to the State of New Hampshire, I remain

Yours in the All- Holy Trinity
And the Mother of God,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester