



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
*Secretariat for Administration*

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Lucy Weber  
House Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 306  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: HB 1577 (Relative to Regulating Alkaline Hydrolysis for the Disposal of Human Remains)**

Dear Senator Carson and Members of the Health, Human Services & 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 express our **opposition to HB 1577**, a bill allowing and regulating alkaline hydrolysis for the disposal of human remains.

In the process known as alkaline hydrolysis, the human body is reduced to bone ash and a sterile liquid substance through a chemical reaction. While the bone ash is returned to the decedent's family, the reported 300 gallons of liquid substance that is produced in the process is flushed away, usually into the public waste system.

Every human person has an innate dignity that calls for the remains of every deceased person to be treated with the utmost respect. Reverence and respect for human remains are important principles which have been reflected in society down through the ages. These principles are reflected in the New Hampshire state laws which govern how human remains are to be treated.

We urge the committee to report HB 1577 as inexpedient to legislate because alkaline hydrolysis fails to provide New Hampshire citizens with the reverence and respect they should receive at the end of their lives. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of the State of New Hampshire.

Very truly yours,

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

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