



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 22, 2023

Senator Regina Birdsell, Chair
And Members of the Senate HHS Committee
Legislative Office Building
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: SB 263 (Reauthorization of Granite Advantage Health Care Program)

Dear Senator Birdsell and Members of the Committee:

As Director of the Office of Public Policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, Catholic Medical Center, and Catholic Charities NH, I write to register our **support for SB 263**.

This strongly bipartisan bill sends an extremely important message in two respects.

First, in the face of trends in contemporary society that can often assign priority to the advancement of personal self-interest, this bill re-emphasizes the fundamental place of the principle of the common good.

It is critical that we recapture the once universal understanding that the common good is the principle that lies at the heart of the constitutional order which the framers of the state and federal constitutions handed on to us. *See* NH Const. Part 1 Art. 1 (government is “instituted for the general good”) and Part 2 Art. 83 (the legislature is “to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence [and] public and private charity...”) At a time when we witness so much division within society, we need to step back and recognize that a bipartisan bill like SB 263 once again summons up “the better angels of our nature.”

Second, and turning to the merits of SB 263, it is clear that the Granite Advantage Program has allowed our neighbors in need to obtain absolutely essential health care. There are many people in New Hampshire today who have a better quality of life than they would have had in the absence of Granite Advantage. Indeed, there are undoubtedly people who are alive today because of care they received under Granite Advantage. Manifestly, then, SB 263 can and should be thought of as a pro-life bill.

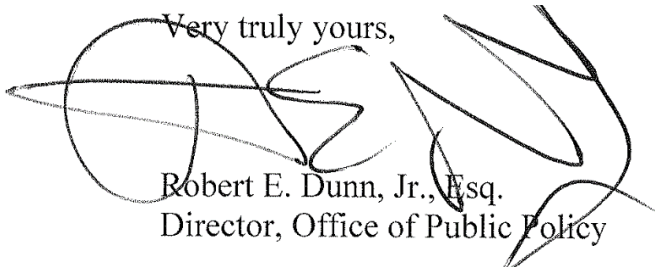
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While of course the Medicaid program has its shortcomings, SB 263 really boils down to one question: **what would be the mechanism for providing health care to the Granite Advantage population if Granite Advantage were to disappear?**

Since it is clear what the answer to that question is, we respectfully ask you to recommend **SB 263 as ought to pass.**

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. E. Dunn, Jr.', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

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