

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 18, 2020

The Hon. Renny Cushing, Chair
and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 1263 (Compensation Fund Claims By Victims of Human Trafficking)

Dear Rep. Cushing and Members of the Criminal Justice Committee:

As Director of the Office of Public Policy for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, I write to **support HB 1263**, expanding the ability of victims of human trafficking to obtain compensation from the Victims Compensation Fund established in RSA 21-M.

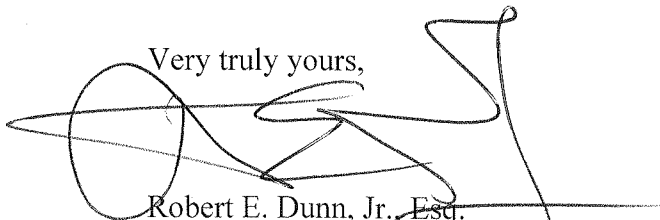
In his homilies, speeches and writings, Pope Francis constantly raises human trafficking as one of the great evils of our age. “[T]hese new forms of slavery -human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution, organ trade – are very serious crimes, a wound on the body of contemporary humanity.” Pope Francis, *Address to the Participants in the Plenary Session of the Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences*, April 18, 2005. “The whole of society is called to grow in this awareness, especially with regard to national and international legislation, in order to prosecute the traffickers and redirect their unjust gains to the rehabilitation of the victims.” *Id.*

HB 1263 is one move in that direction. Along with the other bills that Rep. Massimilla and her colleagues have been proposing each year to continue the critical work of addressing aspects of the scourge of human trafficking, this is a bill that will make it to some degree more likely that trafficking victims will be able to escape from the cycle of coercion under which they are held, and begin to once again live in freedom from servitude and fear.

Therefore, HB 1263 will promote human dignity and the common good, and we ask you to vote OTP on the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,



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