

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 31, 2022

Via email only

Hon. Mark Pearson, Chair
And Members of the House HHS Committee
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 1578 (Including Certain Children and Mothers in Medicaid and CHIP)

Dear Representative Pearson and Members of the 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 respectfully register our **support for HB 1578**.

As you know, there is a five-year waiting period before some immigrants can obtain benefits under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). Although federal law now allows a state to eliminate the five-year waiting period for children and pregnant women who are legally residing in the US but not yet permanent residents, New Hampshire has not yet undertaken that step. We understand that the largest number of affected people would be asylum applicants, those who have recently been granted a green card, those who are far along in the application process through "family reunification," and those who are in Temporary Protected Status.

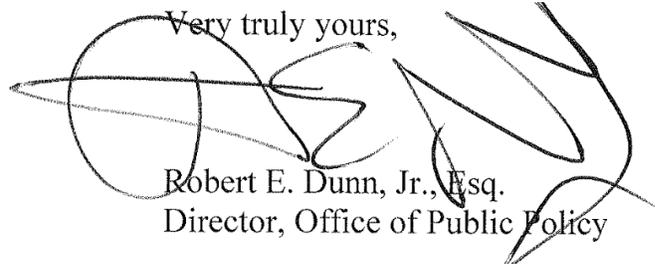
We should think of HB 1578 as a pro-life bill. By providing for the extension of Medicaid coverage to these mothers and children, HB 1578 would be an important signal of our willingness as a state to support these neighbors of ours who are covered under the reach of the bill. It would recognize the additional challenges that come from living with limited income in a new land. And just as the State's initial Medicaid expansion has resulted in significant benefit to lower income individuals through improved healthcare, HB 1578 will similarly advance human dignity and the common good.

Hon. Mark Pearson, Chair
And Members of the House HHS Committee
January 31, 2022
Page 2

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you vote ought to pass on HB 1578.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over the typed name and title.

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