



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 1, 2023

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

Re: HB 282 (Including Certain Children and Mothers in Medicaid and CHIP)

Dear Mr. Chair 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 282.**

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). Federal law allows a state to eliminate the five-year waiting period for children and pregnant women who are legally residing in the US but who are not yet permanent residents. New Hampshire, however, 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 view HB 282 as a pro-life bill. By providing for the extension of Medicaid coverage to these mothers and children who are residing in our state, HB 282 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 282 will similarly advance the principles of human dignity and the common good.

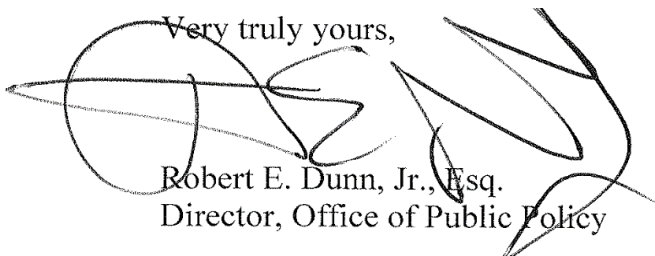
Therefore, we respectfully ask that you recommend HB 282 as ought to pass.



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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.", written over the typed name.

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