



**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER**  
*Secretariat for Administration and Community Affairs*

January 20, 2010

Representative David E. Cote, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: CACR 28

Dear Representative Cote:

As Chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop John McCormack, I want to register our support for CACR 28. CACR 28 would place on the ballot a constitutional amendment which recognizes marriage as being the union of one man and one woman.

When the same sex marriage law was enacted last year, it was only by the narrowest of margins. Redefining the central building block of our society and creating something which had never before been recognized in the history of our state, let alone thousands of years of Western civilization, should not have been done simply on a bare majority of a vote of the legislature.

The final arbiters of what is constitutionally permitted in this state are the people themselves. If ever there were an issue which called out for the opinion of the people as a whole, this is it.

It is also worth noting that the fact that the legislature chose to do this by a small legislative majority, and without the consensus of the people as a whole, means that this issue is likely to become a political football as each new legislature is seated every two years, and the small majority shifts one way or another on this issue. A constitutional determination is the only way that this can be finally resolved.

Accordingly, we strongly urge that you pass CACR 28, and restore to the people of New Hampshire their ability to have a say on the issue of same sex marriage.

Thank you for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Diane Murphy Quinlan, Esq.

Chancellor