



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: HB 1590 (repeal same sex marriage)

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 HB 1590, which would repeal same sex marriage in New Hampshire.

As you know, we have consistently opposed the same sex marriage initiatives, including last year's legislation which led to the creation of same sex marriage in this state. It is our belief that that law is inconsistent with what thousands of years of human civilization show us, and that marriage is not something which can entered into by two persons of the same gender.

Marriage is not merely a private institution. It is the foundation of the family, which as been, and ought to continue to be, the bedrock of every human society. Male-female complementarity is essential to marriage, as it makes possible authentic union and the generation of new life. No other relationship symbolizes life and love as marriage between a man and a woman does. Justice requires that marriage as the union of one man and one woman be restored and protected.

Last year's legislation, by the narrowest of margins, overturned thousands of years of moral outlook of Western civilization and affected the fundamental building block of our society. The law was wrong when it was passed last year, and it continues to be wrong. Therefore, we support the passage of HB 1590.

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

Very truly yours,

/s/ Diane Murphy Quinlan, Esq.

Chancellor