



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Secretariat for Administration

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Edward Butler, Chair
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 302
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 562 (Relative to the Interest Rate on Title Loans)

Dear Representative Butler and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Affairs 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 express our **support of HB 562**, a bill reinstating a reasonable, common-sense 36 percent interest rate cap on car title loans.

Current law permits a lender to issue a loan to consumers secured by a vehicle and at interest rates of 300-percent. The law allows up to ten renewals at this excessive interest rate.

High-interest car title loans harshly impact low-wage earners and the poor. This type of loan product is based upon the value of the vehicle secured, not the borrower's ability to pay. As a result, borrowers may not be able to afford the hefty interest payments and risk losing their family vehicles.

We urge the committee to support HB 562. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Very truly yours,

Meredith P. Cook, Esq.
Director, Office of Public Policy

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