



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 31, 2023

Senator Sharon Carson, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: **SB 181 (Creating a Statutory Right to Abortion)**

Dear Senator Carson 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 **opposition to SB 181**, which would create a statutory right of “access to abortion care.” The bill seeks to create an affirmative public policy that declares abortion to be “vital to the equality and liberty of all individuals.” It probably goes without saying that we could not disagree more strongly with this statement.

I suspect that most people in New Hampshire, regardless of political or religious persuasion, share a concern that the fundamental principles of human dignity and solidarity are beset by many challenges today. But the work of building dignity and solidarity certainly will not be advanced by the passage of a law that would affirmatively declare certain human beings to be disposable. I ask the Committee to carefully consider these important insights from Pope Francis:

**[The] defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.**

Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter *The Joy of the Gospel*, 213 (2013).

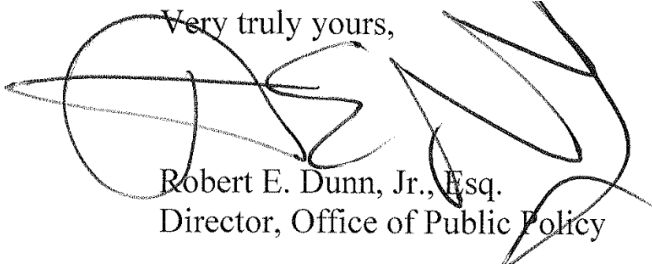
It is also important to recognize just what SB 181 actually encompasses. The bill would affirmatively sanction all abortions except for those enumerated in the bill; namely, abortions prohibited under the Fetal Life Protection Act (RSA 329:44 ff.) and those

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which do not comply with the parental notification law (RSA 132:34 ff.). This means that among the types of abortion that SB 181 would deem “vital to the equality and liberty of all individuals” would be, for instance, abortions done for purposes of sex-selection or because the unborn child is presumed to have a disability.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to vote ITL on SB 181.

Thank you as always for your kind consideration of our views.

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