



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 4, 2024

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

Re: **SB 575 (legal protections for abortion providers)**

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 575**, which seeks to expand legal protections for abortion providers.

As a threshold matter, SB 575 wrongly classifies abortion as health care. Health care is care which is life-affirming and life-giving. Abortion, on the other hand, is the intentional ending of a human life. Killing is not health care, and it should not be referred to or treated as such.

Second, because it involves the taking of the life of a human being, and because it so strongly infringes on the principle of human dignity, abortion manifestly does not merit the special privileges which SB 575 seeks to vest it with. I once again ask the Committee to consider the wider implications of proposals which have as their fundamental premise the principle that there are certain human beings whose lives can be considered to be disposable. In Pope Francis's words:

[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).



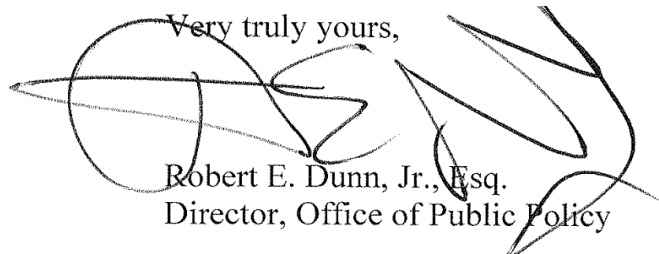
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The dignity of the young human being who needs food or housing or health care or refuge is inseparable from the dignity of the young human being in the womb. If we ask society to treat certain ones of us as expendable, we cannot be surprised if society begins to treat certain ones of us as expendable.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to recommend ITL on SB 567.

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 and title.

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