



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 8, 2024

Hon. Robert Lynn, Chair  
And Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: **CACR 23 (Constitutional Right to Abortion)**

Dear Mr. Chair 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 CACR 23**, which seeks to establish a constitutional right to abortion in New Hampshire. I am unfortunately not able to be present at the hearing, so I appreciate the opportunity to present these written comments.

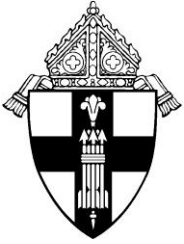
I feel sure that most people in New Hampshire, regardless of political or religious persuasion, share a common concern that the principles of human dignity and solidarity are beset by many challenges in today's world. So as the Committee deliberates on CACR 23, I ask that you consider this fundamental question:

**Would the work of building up human dignity and solidarity be advanced by the adoption of a constitutional amendment which effectively declares certain human beings to be disposable?**

The answer to this question seems self-evident. As Pope Francis has put it:

[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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I hope it is clear just what CACR 23 seeks to bless. The proposed language of this CACR would encompass, for instance, abortions done up to the moment of birth, abortions done for purposes of sex selection, and abortions done because the unborn child is presumed to have a disability.

As New Hampshire's body politic, we need to come to grips with how the promotion of abortion relates to other aspects of our culture. The dignity of the young human being in the womb is inseparable from the dignity of the young human being who needs housing, or the young human being who needs health care, or the young human being at the border. 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 CACR 23.

Thank you 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