

## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 29, 2020

Hon. Marjorie Smith, Chair  
and Members, House Judiciary Committee  
LOB Room 208  
Concord NH 03301

Re: HB 1675 (Born Alive Protection Act)

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

As Director of the Office of Public Policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, I want to register our support for HB 1675, creating the Born Alive Protection Act.

This bill seeks to have New Hampshire join a number of other states that have put laws into place to protect babies who survive abortions. The Kermit Gosnell case is just one notorious example of what is happening in other places as well: babies surviving abortions, but being killed or left to die after they are born.

The views of the Catholic Church on issues relating to life ultimately are drawn, of course, from the perspective of faith. But the Church's views also are based on reason. There are some things which our common human nature tells us are the right things to do in a particular situation, and these are really beyond the realm of debate, because it is basic human nature which impels us in that direction.

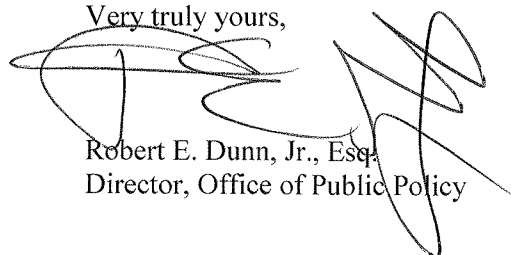
For that reason, it presumably is not controversial to assert that a newborn baby should receive (as this bill says) "appropriate and reasonable medical care and treatment". I suspect that no one would disagree with that statement.

So does the fact that the child is a survivor of an abortion change anything? A health care provider who happened upon a baby in distress would do all in his or her power to care for that child without regard to the circumstances of that child's birth. How that child came to be born would be an utterly irrelevant consideration. That this newborn baby is a survivor of abortion likewise is irrelevant. The pregnancy is over. The living child, now outside of the mother's womb, cannot be said to be anything other than a legally-recognized person entitled to the full protection of the law.

Therefore I respectfully urge the Committee to vote ought to pass on HB 1675.

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

Very truly yours,



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