



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

March 8, 2022

Via email only

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

**Re: HB 576 (Human Trafficking/Victims Compensation Fund)**

Dear Senator Carson and Members of the Committee:

I am unable to attend today's hearing to testify in person, but I do want to register in writing our support for HB 576, expanding the ability of victims of human trafficking to obtain compensation from the Victims Compensation Fund established in RSA 21-M.

Along with the other bills that Rep. Massimilla and her colleagues have been proposing each year to continue the critical work of addressing aspects of the scourge of human trafficking, this is a bill that will to some degree make it more likely that trafficking victims will be able to escape from the cycle of coercion under which they are held and begin once again to live in freedom from servitude and fear. These bills also serve the important purpose of keeping the realities of human trafficking in the public eye.

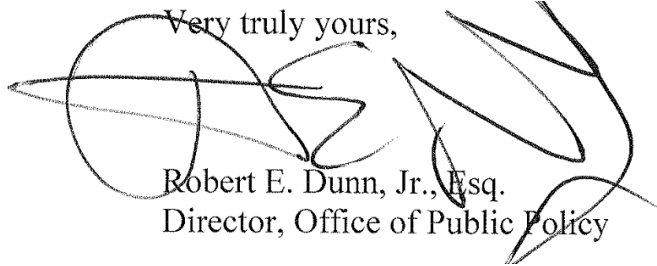
In his homilies, speeches and writings, Pope Francis constantly raises human trafficking as one of the great evils of our age. "[T]hese new forms of slavery--human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution, organ trade – are very serious crimes, a wound on the body of contemporary humanity." Pope Francis, Address to the Participants in the Plenary Session of the Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences, April 18, 2005. "The whole of society is called to grow in this awareness, especially with regard to national and international legislation, in order to prosecute the traffickers and redirect their unjust gains to the rehabilitation of the victims." Id.

HB 576 is one move in that direction. Therefore, we believe that HB 576 will promote human dignity and the common good, and we ask you to recommend that the bill ought to pass.

Senator Sharon Carson, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
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Thank you as always for your kind consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

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