



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

April 20, 2023

The Hon. Len Turcotte, Chair  
And Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: SB 132 (Sanctuary Policies)**

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 SB 132.

Going back to when I served as the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Safety in the early 1990s, and down to the present, it has always been clear that the Department of Safety and the NH Chiefs of Police Association have felt very much at ease when they want to bring ideas to the legislature about ways to protect the people of New Hampshire. The fact that this proposal has not been initiated by those law enforcement organizations is a significant point to take into account here.

I understand from those who work with immigrant communities in New Hampshire that many immigrants come from countries where there is a significant mistrust of the police and the government. This means that New Hampshire law enforcement authorities have a difficult task in assuring these communities that our police departments exist to serve and protect everyone. Police departments in many cities and towns in New Hampshire have made significant efforts to establish trust and to open lines of communication with immigrant communities. These lines of communication are critical to public safety, because if people are afraid of going to the police to report crimes, then criminals will be able to prey more easily upon people who are already vulnerable enough.

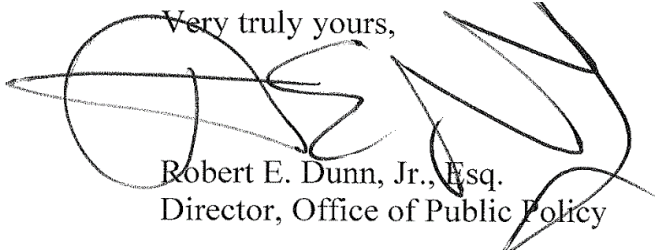
Thus, the question of how state and local police deal with ICE detainers is something that should be left to the judgment of those departments, and not dictated by the State in a way that does not account for local situations. If New Hampshire law enforcement authorities decide to use their discretion with respect to enforcement of ICE detainers, then the State should defer to their expertise as to how best to protect the public safety in the communities under their jurisdiction.

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Therefore, we respectfully ask that you recommend SB 132 as inexpedient to legislate.

Thank you 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, positioned above the typed name.

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