



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 1, 2024

Senator Sharon Carson, Chair
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

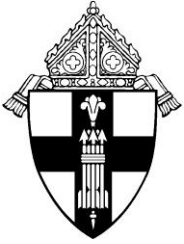
Re: **SB 563 (Ban on Sanctuary Policies)**

Dear Madam 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 563**.

One of the first things I learned when I became the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Safety in the early 1990s (and the past 30 years have done nothing to change this perspective) is that the Department of Safety and the NH Chiefs of Police Association have never hesitated to come to the legislature when they have ideas about how best to protect the people of New Hampshire. This is an important point to consider as you deliberate on this bill. While this legislation obviously is being brought forward as a way to advance the public safety, it has *not* been proposed by the law enforcement organizations that have the very task of protecting the safety of the public.

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. As a result, New Hampshire law enforcement authorities have a difficult task in assuring these communities that our police departments exist to serve and protect everyone. I am aware that 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 the public safety. If people are afraid of going to the police to report crimes, then criminals will be more easily able to prey on people who are already vulnerable enough.



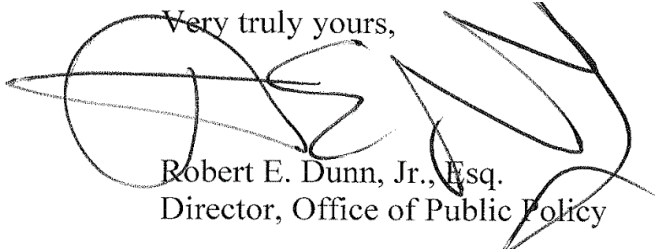
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Thus, the question of how state and local police deal with ICE detainees is something that should be left to the judgment of those departments, and not dictated by the State in a way that does not account for local situations. If New Hampshire law enforcement authorities decide to use their discretion with respect to enforcement of ICE detainees, then the State should defer to the expertise of these New Hampshire officials who, after all, are best situated to determine what approach will most effectively advance the public safety in the communities under their jurisdiction.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you recommend SB 563 as inexpedient to legislate.

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