MEMO

To: Pastors and Administrators

From: Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River

RE: Response to Governor's Enacting of Abortion Bill into Law

Date: November 10, 2026

Late last Friday afternoon (November 6), Governor Maura Healey attached an emergency preamble to the abortion bill she signed last summer, immediately putting into effect the new state law permitting late-term abortions. It is among the most expansive abortion laws in the nation.

As you know, the recent referendum campaign gathered enough signatures to suspend implementation of the law until voters could decide whether to repeal it through a statewide referendum expected in 2028. However, the governor's use of an emergency preamble last Friday prevents the law from being suspended while the referendum process moves forward.

On Saturday, my brother bishops across the state and I issued a statement in response to the governor's action. The statement was shared through our social media channels and posted on diocesan websites. We are continuing to distribute it this week through the Bishop's Blog and The Anchor e-newsletter, and it has also received news media coverage. A copy is attached for your consideration and use as you deem appropriate. I encourage you to share it with your parishioners.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.