Diocese of Fall River

Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

October 29, 2026

Dear Father,

I write to provide an important update on the statewide campaign to repeal Chapter 188, the radical abortion expansion law signed by Governor Maura Healey in August of this year, and to thank you for your efforts in support of the repeal initiative. As you remember, the Compassionate Care Coalition, formed in response to the law, launched *Repeal 188*, a citizen-led referendum campaign to gather signatures to overturn and repeal this legislation.

I am pleased to share that at a news conference this afternoon, the Compassionate Care Coalition announced that over 97,000 certified signatures were collected, exceeding the threshold to stop the implementation of the abortion law and sending it for a referendum vote. Final certification by the Secretary of the Commonwealth remains pending.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who permitted members of the Coalition and volunteers to collect signatures at your parishes, and for your assistance in sharing information about this important initiative and encouraging participation. Along with our prayers, our faith calls us to take concrete action in defense of the dignity and sanctity of every human life. Thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do, in this vital effort.

Following this afternoon's news conference, I joined my brother bishops of Massachusetts in issuing a statement expressing gratitude to the thousands of people across the Commonwealth who participated in the petition effort. That statement appears below:

> Today, thousands of voices have been raised in the defense of the sacred dignity of human life. Voters across Massachusetts signed a petition to recall the recent radical law that eliminated all limits on late-term abortion. As pastors, we raised our voices in opposition to the bill and in favor of the beauty of life. Every child is a gift, and every person deserves a chance to live. We wish to express our gratitude to God and to all of the coalition partners who worked so hard to champion this effort and to all the voters who signed the petition. May the Lord turn every heart towards compassion and love and may God bless the people of this Commonwealth, everyone.

Please extend my heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers at your parish who assisted with the signature drive, as well as to everyone who supported it. Their commitment and action provided a powerful testimony in defense of life and in opposition to this law.

I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Edgar Mda

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

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