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STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS ON U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING ON DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

CHICAGO -- The Catholic Conference of Illinois regrets the U.S. Supreme Court's wrong decision to invalidate the Defense of Marriage Act. Marriage comes to us through God's nature as the union of one man and one woman.

The ruling, however, does not mandate a redefinition of marriage across the nation, so the citizens of Illinois can still preserve marriage by telling their state lawmakers to honor the natural truth of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The Catholic Church in Illinois and across the world will continue to promote this truth.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois will work to preserve marriage and stress the disturbing lack of religious freedom protections included in Illinois' legislative efforts to redefine marriage. The bill before the Illinois legislature lacks even the minimal protections found in other state laws authorizing the redefinition of marriage, including New York, Minnesota, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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The Catholic Conference of Illinois was created in 1969 to serve as the public policy voice of the Illinois bishops and the six dioceses of the state: Belleville, Chicago, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield-in-Illinois.