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CCI APPLAUDS SENATE PASSAGE OF SCHOOL VOUCHER BILL

The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) today celebrates the passage of Senate Bill 2494. The legislation, sponsored by Senator James Meeks (D-Chicago) and co-sponsored by Senator Dan Cronin (R-Elmhurst), seeks to provide tuition vouchers to the families of children enrolled in Chicago's lowest performing schools.

The bill passed with 33 Yeas, 20 Nays and 3 Present votes and now goes to the Illinois House of Representatives for consideration. If the legislation is enacted into law, families receiving vouchers would be able to enroll their children in any participating nonpublic school in Chicago.

"I appreciate the Senate for taking the historic step to provide opportunities for children to achieve their full potential in schools that meet their needs," said Senator Meeks.

CCI has long been a proponent of legislative initiatives designed to provide school choice and support for families choosing nonpublic schools. On behalf of Illinois' Catholic school community, we have and will continue to work on advancing this legislation. Parents are the primary educators of their children, and the state should provide necessary support to families so that the best educational opportunities for their children are attainable – whether public, private or parochial.

"Senator Meeks, supported by both Democrats and Republicans have taken an important first step," said Bob Gilligan Executive Director of CCI. "This voucher legislation targets those most in need, and we know our Catholic schools can help."

If this legislation becomes law, the work of Catholic schools will continue with expanded access to families in need. The mission of providing an excellent, faith-based education to all enrolled children is and always will be the primary mission.