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December 10, 2025

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
555 W. Monroe St., 16th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

Dear Governor Pritzker:

We are writing to ask you to veto SB 1950, legislation of grave moral importance that allows for assisted suicide in Illinois.

As Governor, you will be instrumental in choosing which of two divergent paths end-of-life care in Illinois will follow. The preferred path is to ensure Illinoisans at the end of their life will have compassionate, loving care provided by trained professionals and/or loving family members. The other is create an environment that allows insurance companies to provide low-cost lethal drugs to those who cannot access quality end of life care. The choice is clear. Please veto SB 1950.

Some describe SB 1950 as the compassionate choice. This bill is not about compassion. The legislation requires no services to be offered to the person requesting death, there is no requirement that family be near the loved one at the point of death, or that the person is not being coerced into ending their life. This has already dangerously played out in other states with these laws in place. This is not compassion.

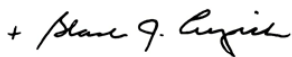
A compassionate path forward is to support dying persons by alleviating their suffering through palliative care, hospice care, and other comprehensive programs. The reason many seek to end their lives is the difficulties accessing quality palliative and hospice care. Working with our legislature, our state can address this. Real compassion demands we invest in and ensure access to excellent pain management and holistic support for the terminally ill, allowing them to live their final days in comfort and peace, surrounded by family, friends and other emotional supports. There are many places in Illinois where there are too few, if any palliative care centers. For those facing serious life-limiting illness in Illinois, access to community palliative care services should be mandated and readily available. We support increasing funding for these programs and ensuring they are of the highest quality possible.

This legislation will also lead to more suicide in Illinois. According to a study conducted by David Paton, legalizing assisted suicide is associated with a 6.3 percent increase in total suicide. It defies common sense for our state to enact a 9-8-8 suicide hotline, increase funding for suicide prevention programs, and then pass a law that, based on the experience of other

jurisdictions, results in more suicide. If you were to sign this into law, what if a person who wanted physician assisted suicide were to call this hotline? According to a 2022 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, suicide is the second-leading cause of death for U.S. teens and young adults 10-34. And, according to the National Institutes of Health, suicide contagion is a real risk to these young people after exposure to suicide.

Your support of the 2024 Health Protection Act has shown your concern about insurance companies refusing to cover necessary, expensive care and treatment. But the Act stops short of protecting Illinoisians against cases such as those documented in other states of people being denied treatment by health insurance companies and instead, offered assisted suicide. That is not compassion.


We also believe within a few short years, the alleged safeguards will no longer exist. Other states eventually eliminated their state residency requirement, thus opening assisted suicide to anyone in the world. Other safeguards have fallen, too. For example, if the law allows one to end their life due to a terminal illness what is to stop a court or future legislature from allowing a person suffering from a chronic illness to end their life. What stops someone who just wants to stop living from accessing medical assistance to do so? That has been the case in Canada as all their safeguards were eliminated. In 2016, there were only a little over 1,000 assisted suicide deaths in Canada. Less than a decade later, there were 15,000. Similarly, other US states have been slowly eliminating safeguards. We fear that once assisted suicide is legal, it becomes an acceptable alternative to both compassionate care and to mental health treatment that might encourage potential suicides to consider a different path. Aiding someone in killing himself or herself is not the answer. Alleviation of suffering is the answer, the true compassionate choice.



Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago



Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois



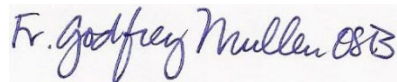
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CC:

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The Honorable Ryan Croke, First Assistant Deputy Governor for Health and Human Services
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