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May 28, 2019

Catholic Conference of Illinois Statement on House Passage of “Reproductive Health Act”

The decision of the Illinois House of Representatives to take up and pass the so-called Reproductive Health Act is a grave tragedy and a collective moral failing. Illinois has previously distinguished itself by recognizing and upholding human dignity. It has welcomed and defended the rights of immigrants and refugees and eliminated the death penalty. It is therefore incomprehensible to us that the General Assembly has prioritized denying protection to the most vulnerable among us by enacting some of the most liberal abortion access laws in the nation.

The proponents of the so-called Reproductive Health Act have portrayed it as a simple clean-up bill, taking old statutes off the books. This is false. The bill includes new provisions that render any regulation of abortion impossible, strip away standards for – and regulation of – clinics where abortions are performed, and mandate private insurance plans subject to Illinois’ authority cover abortion.

This Act is an extreme measure, allowing for the abortion of unborn life at any stage of pregnancy and for any reason. It sends a message to everyone in our state that life is cheap. This is a truly sad day for Illinois. We will continue to make our case against such callous disregard for human life whenever it appears in society.

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