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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS ON SENATE BILL 10

CHICAGO – The Bishops of Illinois are profoundly grateful that Illinois House lawmakers listened to their constituents and declined to consider legislation that would redefine marriage in Illinois. The Catholic Church and many others have fought hard to oppose this legislation and to preserve our shared religious, legal and cultural understanding of marriage as God and nature intended: the permanent and exclusive relationship between a man and a woman committed to one another and their children. We are most grateful to all those who have courageously joined us in this effort.

The Catholic Church has respect and pastoral concern for our brothers and sisters who have same-sex attraction. We offer our prayerful support to them and their families.

We realize this issue will continue. Catholics and their Church must continue to engage our culture, even through political institutions, and be a consistent advocate for what is right and just while serving the needs of our community to the very best of our ability.

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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.