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PLEASE OPPOSE REPEALING THE PARENTAL NOTICE OF ABORTION ACT

For the past three years, legislation to repeal the Parental Notice of Abortion Act has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly. Each year, you have declined to act on it. Parental Notice, which has been in statute since 1995 and enforced since 2013, requires a parent or legal guardian be notified when a minor under the age of 18 seeks an abortion. There is no requirement for parental consent, only notification. The law also includes two waivers: (1) a judicial waiver for those not wishing to inform their parents and (2) a blanket waiver for minors who attest to being physically or sexually abused.

REPEALING A REASONABLE AND CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARD

- Every state bordering Illinois – Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa – require at least parental notification.
- The Illinois Supreme Court (unanimously) and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals have both found the law to be constitutional.

REPEALING A LAW WHICH HAS DEMONSTRABLY SAVED LIVES

- Illinois Department of Public Health statistics show a decrease in abortions on minors since 2013, when 1,762 minors had an abortion.
- In 2014, that number dropped to 1,255; in 2015, 1,226; in 2016, 1,037; in 2017, 1,003; and in 2018, the most recent year for which data is available, 1,092.

CUTTING PARENTS OUT

- Repeal would be contrary to the legal and moral right of parents and legal guardians to care for their children.
 - Under current law, it is illegal for minors to use an indoor tanning bed, get a tattoo or body piercing without parental consent. Minors cannot vote, buy cigarettes, serve in the military or purchase lottery tickets.
 - Medical study after medical study have shown brain development in minors is not complete. This is why so many of our laws require parental involvement in the decisions of their minor children. Decisions on abortion, which have been shown to have significant physical and psychological consequences, should be no different.
- Since the law took effect, there have been no reported incidents of the abuse or neglect of any minor whose parents were informed of her intention to obtain an abortion.

The Parental Notice of Abortion Act is a broadly-supported, reasonable safeguard that allows parents to properly exercise love and care for their children. Our government should be in the business of supporting families and assisting parents and legal guardians, not undermining them.