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STATEMENT ON THE DELAY OF THE ILLINOIS PARENTAL NOTICE OF ABORTION ACT

Catholic Conference of Illinois Expresses Disappointment Over Failure to Implement Parental Notification Law - Again

Due to a recent court action in Cook County, the will of the people is once again thwarted and Illinois law continues to fail to support parents in protecting their children. It is an act of injustice that the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act has been delayed yet again. This common-sense regulation requires that a parent or legal guardian be notified by abortion doctors if their minor child seeks an abortion. The legislation enjoys strong public support in Illinois and nationally with polls showing approval at or above 80 percent. Most parents view the legislation as helping teens to do the right thing. For those in difficult situations, the legislation includes a provision to allow children who are abused to opt out. Schools in Illinois require parental permission for field trips or even to dispense an aspirin to a minor. Parents deserve the right to be notified of a significant surgical procedure that can involve emotional scars for a lifetime. All of the states bordering Illinois have parental notice or consent laws, why do some insist on making our state an attractive location to circumvent a parent's right to know what their children are doing? This law was passed in 1995. It is time for this law to take effect, and we will continue to work vigorously to ensure that parents' rights are not circumvented by well-funded special interest groups.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois is the public policy arm of the Roman Catholic Church in Illinois.