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DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

PRESS RELEASE

ROCKFORD DIOCESE SUPPORTS ACTION AGAINST HHS MANDATE

ROCKFORD, IL—After receiving the announcement that 12 lawsuits on behalf of Catholic dioceses, hospitals, schools and church agencies were filed in federal court May 21, Bishop of Rockford David J. Malloy issued the following statement:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

--First Amendment

“It is no mistake that our founding fathers gave these important rights priority in our constitution. The freedom of religion is rooted in the very dignity of every human person regardless of the individual faith they choose to practice. The Health and Human Services Mandate serves a direct assault on our faith because it mandates for us how we are to practice it. It is for this reason that Catholic entities have filed suit against this mandate. It is for this reason the Rockford Diocese supports the Catholic entities that have filed suit against this mandate. “

“Until now, our laws have respected and honored the conscience rights of religious institutions and individuals—a heritage that has helped the United States stand out among free nations around the world. This mandate clearly breaks that tradition of respect for liberty.”

“As Catholics, we cannot and will not compromise our core beliefs. We cannot and will not allow any government mandate to force us to participate in any activity morally or religiously objectionable.”

END