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Statement in Response to Illinois Supreme Court Decision John Doe A. v. Diocese of Dallas, Diocese of Belleville, Archdiocese of St. Louis, and Fr. Kenneth Roberts.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois, representing the six Catholic dioceses in our state, wishes to reaffirm its commitment and the commitment of each diocese to assisting those who have been victims of sexual abuse by priests. The Catholic community will continue to work to bring healing and justice to the survivors of child sexual abuse. Through the diocesan Victim Assistance Programs, each diocese has a practice of seeking reconciliation with survivors and urging them to come forward to report their stories as a way to promote healing. The decision today by the Illinois Supreme Court will not change this commitment. We will continue to do what we can to help survivors, their families and communities.