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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop David Malloy issues statement on repeal of Parental Notification Law in Illinois

ROCKFORD, Ill.— Bishop of Rockford, Most Reverend David Malloy issued a statement in reaction to the approval by the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives to repeal the parental notification act in the State of Illinois. Here is the bishop's full statement:

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This week, both the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate voted to repeal the requirement of parental notification of abortion in this state. Simply put, that requirement articulated the common sense that parents must be informed by an abortion facility 48 hours in advance of an abortion involving their daughter when she is a minor.

Not surprisingly, polls show wide-spread opposition to this decision. The repeal of this requirement has devastating implications including the undermining of trust between parents and daughters and the legislative hubris of interfering in the God-given and natural responsibility of parents for their children. Young girls will find themselves isolated at a crucial moment of life and made vulnerable to sexual predators. And of course, this action ignores the science as Pope Francis has recently reminded us -- when speaking about the child in the womb he said "Scientifically it's a human life. The [embryology] textbooks teach us that."

I urge all people of good will to offer their prayers at this time. We pray for all the future victims of this tragic vote. We pray also for all those who have voted for this legislation. But given our democratic society, this is a vote we should never forget. At the next election we should be mindful of those legislators who voted in favor of family, young girls and life, and those who did not.

Our participation in the democratic process and our society should make this a primary issue to recall as we seek to bring about a better world that is truly just. The young girls of Illinois deserve better than this.

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About Catholic Diocese of Rockford

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 400,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, visit rockforddiocese.org