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DATE: March 18, 2019

RE: Reproductive Health Act Update and ICHA Advocacy Action Plan

### UPDATE

As of last Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, it was reported that HB 2495, the House version of the Reproductive Health Act, was being sent to the Informed Consent Subcommittee by Rep. Frances Hurley, the Chair of the House Human Services Committee. Traditionally, assigning bills to subcommittees is a common Statehouse way of killing them. In fact, Rep. Hurley said she did not expect the bill to come out of the subcommittee this year. However, it was reported that she qualified that by saying privately that she wouldn't move the bill unless "told" to do so. The surprising development may be due to the fact that the legislation is being viewed as too drastic and opposition has been building, with pro-life groups and affiliated media outlets claiming the pro-choice legislators are actually pushing an "infanticide" bill.

Even without House action, the proponents of the Reproductive Health Act still have two avenues to move the legislation forward. They can continue to push the Senate version, SB 1942, and try to pressure Rep. Hurley to action and also encourage the House leadership to compel Rep. Hurley to move the legislation out of her committee and to the floor.

### ICHA ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN

This latest move by Rep. Hurley reinforces my belief that this is the time to maintain the maximum pressure to defeat HB 2495/SB 1942.

On Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, ICHA will be in Springfield to support the Bishop's opposition to the Reproductive Health Act and to participate in the Bishop's 10:00AM press conference. To support the Bishops, ICHA is recruiting women and minority health care providers to also participate in the Bishop's press conference.

ICHA is reaching out to other organizations who share our opposition to HB 2495/SB 1942 in an effort to build unified coalition. These groups include the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois Hospital Association, the Catholic Medical Association of Illinois, etc.

Most importantly, ICHA will be contacting the legislative leadership in Springfield and is asking all of you, and your colleagues, to contact your legislators to express your opposition to HB 2495 and SB 1942. Specifically, as it directly affects Catholic health care, ask your representatives to do the following three things:

1. **Remove** the insurance coverage mandate with no co-pays or deductibles for abortion.
2. **Remove** the repeal of the Abortion Performance Refusal Act
3. **Remove** the repeal of Section 9 of the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act

To make this as easy as possible, you can find the name of your House and Senate representatives and their contact information at <http://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/action-center/> (This will take you to CCI's Action Center. To contact your elected officials scroll down and enter your information under "Find Politicians".) To find out more about these bills, please consult the Catholic Conference of Illinois website, [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312-534-5355 for further information.

ICHA is here to help you in your advocacy efforts. Please free to contact us at 312-368-0011 for further assistance. Thank you.