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CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY LIST

Now that the bill introduction deadline for the spring legislative session has passed, the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) has compiled the following priority list for bills under consideration. Different issues may emerge in the weeks ahead, but for now, these are the focus:

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY CCI:

House Bill 1919 (Phelps-D) – The Ultrasound Opportunity Act is the result of a lot of hard work from CCI and in collaboration with other pro-life groups. The bill requires that a woman seeking an abortion be offered the opportunity to view an ultrasound of her baby by the physician who is to perform the abortion, the referring physician, or another qualified person working in conjunction with either physician. The offer must be made at least one hour before the procedure takes place.

House Bill 3479 (Yarborough-D) – This legislation, drafted by CCI, creates a tax credit for contributions, by any taxpayer, to qualified, non-profit student assistance organizations (SAO). The credit may not exceed \$100,000 for any one taxpayer and will total 90% of the contribution. The SAOs must use these donations to provide tuition scholarships for low-income students to attend the out-of-district public school or state recognized nonpublic school of their choice. Tax credits will be capped at \$30 million annually.

House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 10 (Beiser-D) & **Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 16** (Haine-D) – CCI helped draft and file these Constitutional amendments. They provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in Illinois. In order to become law these Joint Resolutions require a 3/5ths majority in each chamber to be placed on the next general election ballot and a 3/5th majority of those voting on the question or a majority of all those voting in the election.

House Bill 1199 (Lyons-D) and **Senate Bill 1964** (Maloney-D) restore funding for the Illinois Textbook Loan Program. CCI requested the filing of these bills, and we continue to work to add co-sponsors and build support. The Textbook Loan Program provides funding for public and nonpublic schools to purchase secular learning materials for use in school.