

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Planned Parenthood of Illinois Statement Regarding U.S. Court of Appeals' Ruling on Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act

Statement to be attributed to Beth Kanter, Senior Vice President of External Affairs

We are extremely disappointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals' decision to dismiss a lawsuit brought by the ACLU of Illinois challenging the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995.

However, we know the ACLU is committed to protecting the health and well-being of vulnerable teens in Illinois and will move swiftly to appeal Judge Riley's ruling today.

While we believe the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act puts teens' lives at unnecessary risk, Planned Parenthood of Illinois is committed to doing everything we can to make this new process as easy as possible for teens if the law goes into effect.

Planned Parenthood agrees that in an ideal world, parents would be involved in their teens' health care, and engaged in healthy dialogue around responsible decision making. Most teens seek their parents' advice and counsel when making decisions about their health care. But in some cases, safe and open communication is not possible. In those cases, research shows mandatory parental notice laws do not enhance parent-teen communication, but they may be harmful to teens' health and well-being. If our government and the courts really care about our teenage sons and daughters, it should focus on giving them the information they need to make responsible decisions and continue to encourage healthy family communication, not erect barriers to critical health care services.

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Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL) provides affordably priced high-quality reproductive health care services to women and families throughout Illinois. Through health care services, educational programs and advocacy efforts, PPIL works to ensure and protect the reproductive rights of each individual. Visit www.ppil.org to find the health center nearest you.