

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION REPEAL OPENS DOORS FOR PREDATORS

Fact Sheet from Parents for the Protection of Girls

Illinois HB 1797 & SB 2190

HB 1797 & SB 2190 call on lawmakers to dismantle current law requiring an adult family member to be notified when a minor girl seeks an abortion.

This proposed legislation, which usurps parental rights and enables predatory behavior, was put into consideration by Elgin Democrat State Representative Anna Moeller and Chicago Democrat State Senator Elgie Sims. These bills seek to strike down the Parental Notice of Abortion Act, which has been law since 1995 and enforced since 2013. The current law protects minor girls, requiring that a parent or legal guardian be notified when a child under the age of 18 seeks an abortion. There is no requirement for parental consent, only notification. The law also includes two waivers: (1) a judicial waiver for those not wishing to inform their parents for any reason and (2) a blanket waiver for minors who attest to being physically or sexually abused. The passage of HB 1797 and SB 2190 will allow sexual predators to cover up their crimes against minors without fear of repercussions.

Current Illinois Law:

- The existing Parental Notice of Abortion law does not call for parental consent, only for notification and finds that “notification of a family member as defined in this Act is in the best interest of an unemancipated minor.”
- The General Assembly’s purpose in enacting this parental notice law is stated as “to further and protect the best interests of an unemancipated minor.”
- The law acknowledges that the “medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of abortion are sometimes serious and long-lasting, and immature minors often lack the ability to make fully informed choices that consider both the immediate and long-range consequences.”
- The Act states, “Parental consultation is usually in the best interest of the minor and is desirable since the capacity to become pregnant and the capacity for mature judgment concerning the wisdom of an abortion are not necessarily related.”
- Current law offers exemptions, including when a girl states in writing that she is a victim of sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse by an adult family member.
- The law as written also allows for a minor girl to go to court and seek a judicial waiver based on maturity or best interests...one of which is almost always granted.

Did you know?

- ✓ State laws demonstrate an expectation for parents and legal guardians to care for their children. Under current law, it is illegal for minors to use an indoor tanning bed, or for a minor to get a tattoo or body piercing without parental **consent**. Minors cannot vote, buy cigarettes, serve in the military or purchase lottery tickets. Parental consent forms are a necessity for any extracurricular activity at school. In Illinois, a nurse cannot give a minor an aspirin, nor can a girl get her ears pierced, without **permission** (not just notification) of a parent or guardian.
- ✓ The Illinois Supreme Court (unanimously) and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals have both ruled the law constitutional.
- ✓ Illinois Department of Public Health statistics show a decrease in abortions on minors since 2013, when 1,762 minors had an abortion, following the implementation of Illinois’ Parental Notice Law in 2014, that number dropped to 1,255. The number of abortions on minors in Illinois has continued to decrease an average of 36% every year that parental notice has been in effect.

What Illinois HB 1797 & SB 2190 will do:

- This proposed legislation to repeal the parental notification law disregards the physical and emotional health of minor girls and favors the preferences of sexual predators and sex traffickers.
- This bill allows older men and sex traffickers to use abortion to conceal their sexual abuse of minor girls, therefore allowing predatory and illegal behaviors to continue unchecked.
- Will deny young girls the opportunity for appropriate physical or emotional counsel or care before, during, or after an abortion.
- This legislation encourages sex-traffickers to cross into Illinois from bordering states – EVERY ONE of which requires parental notification or consent, thereby making Illinois the preferred destination for sexual predators.

Did you know?

- ✓ 32% of teen mothers between ages 15 to 17 are impregnated by men older than 20 [source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy].
- ✓ Women who have escaped sex trafficking universally report having had multiple abortions at the compulsion of their abusers.

What Illinois HB 1797 & SB 2190 will not do:

- These laws will not provide any protection or safeguards for minor girls that are given abortions.
- This proposed legislation will not prevent sex traffickers from obtaining abortions for their victims, the average age of which is 13 at their entry into sex trafficking.
- Laws that dismantle parental notice of abortion will not require notice of any adult, parent, guardian, or courtroom judge, to know that a minor is being given an abortion. The only adults being made aware will be those profiting from said abortion.
- These proposed laws do not give any additional protection to minor girls who can already be granted exemption to parental notice with a written statement of physical abuse or a judicial waiver.

Did you know?

- ✓ Medical studies have shown that brain development in minors is not complete. Science confirms that the human brain is not fully developed until age 25. This is why so many Illinois laws require parental involvement in the decisions of their minor children.
- ✓ The repeal of parental notification of abortion laws will not allow parents or guardians to have the knowledge needed to deal with the proven significant physical and psychological aftereffects, robbing minors of important safeguards for bodily and emotional health and safety.
- ✓ A judicial waiver for a minor seeking an abortion must be ruled on within 48 hours or it is granted by default. This is less time than some states require as a waiting period for women seeking abortion.

What Illinois Voters think about HB 1797 & SB 2190:

- 72% of all Illinoisians are in favor of Parental Notice of Abortion law, that percentage rises to 76% among people of color. They DO NOT want this law repealed [source: The Tarrance Group, March 2021 poll].
- 58% of voters who support a women's choice to have an abortion do not believe that minors are in a position to make this choice safely without a parent or guardian being aware that they will be undergoing a medical procedure with the potential for severe physical and psychological consequences [source: The Tarrance Group, March 2021 poll].

FOR ACTION TO STOP HB 1797 & SB 2190 VISIT: [SaveParentalNotification.com](https://www.saveparentalnotification.com)

Media inquiries and interview requests regarding Parents for the Protection of Girls may be directed to TC Public Relations at tc@tcpr.net or 312.422.1333.