

Parental Notification Of Abortion Repealed In Illinois

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(The Center Square) – Wednesday marked the repeal of parental notification of underage abortion in Illinois, and each side of the argument is making their position known.

The 1995 parental notification law didn't go into effect until 2013 after years of litigation. The law allowed for a judicial bypass of the notification requirement.

Last year, the Democratic supermajority at the Illinois statehouse passed a measure to repeal parental notification. Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the repeal in December. The repeal took effect June 1, 2022.

At a campaign stop in East St. Louis Wednesday, Pritzker promised to keep abortion legal in Illinois, even for girls without their parents being notified.

“Just across the river, Missouri Republicans have nearly eliminated women’s ability for women to access vital reproductive health care,” Pritzker said. “While here in Illinois, we’ve fought to expand women’s rights.”

In 2020, more than 9,600 out-of-state residents terminated their pregnancy in Illinois, [according to](#) the Illinois Department of Public Health. More than 6,500 were from Missouri.

Pritzker also contrasted his position with the six Republicans vying for the GOP gubernatorial nomination.

“Every Republican running for governor of Illinois this year wants to make Illinois an anti-choice state, every single one of them,” Pritzker said.

At a separate news conference in Chicago, Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin responded directly to the governor.

“It’s a shame that J.B. Pritzker is using something that is such an important issue for us to be talking about as political fodder,” Irvin said. “He does not have anything other to talk about than trying to make something like that about politics.”

Irvin, who faces five other Republicans that have all been vocal against Illinois’ liberal abortion policies that include elective abortions using taxpayer dollars, said Pritzker is distracting from his failures on high taxes, corruption and crime.

“He wants to talk about things that are already determined to be codified law in the state of Illinois,” Irvin said. “He is using that as politics.”

Irvin said if he wins the office, he would “absolutely” work to restore parental notification. He faces state Sen. Darren Bailey, R-Xenia, former state Sen. Paul Schimpf, R-Waterloo, businessman Gary Rabine, entrepreneur Jesse Sullivan and attorney Max Solomon in the June 28 primary with early voting underway.

The ACLU of Illinois praised the end of parental notification.

“Prior to today, pregnant young people could make any medical decision without barriers except abortion,” said Emily Werth, staff attorney at the ACLU of Illinois.

“Now thankfully they have the same right to make a confidential decision about their health care as everyone else. Today abortion is treated just like all other forms of health care in this state.”

March For Life Chicago Director Kevin Grillot said the repeal of parental notification takes the rights of parents away and makes Illinois an outlier.

“This is a very radical, extreme situation, compared to neighboring states, compared to the U.S., compared to the world,” Grillot told WMAY.

In 2020, the Illinois Department of Public Health reports 1,180 girls under the age of 18 had a pregnancy terminated. Of those, 88 were younger than 15.

He expects more people will come to Illinois for an abortion.

“This is something that is very dangerous for someone say their older boyfriend that wants to push this young girl into having an abortion that got pregnant, they can now just travel across the state line, there’s not regulations in place in Illinois for that,” Grillot said. “So, you’re going to see a number increase.”