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May 14, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholic Conference of Illinois statement on Gov. Bruce Rauner's call for the reinstatement of the death penalty

We are distressed and alarmed by Gov. Bruce Rauner's call for the reinstatement of the death penalty in any way, shape or form. His call to put to death individuals convicted of mass shootings or the fatal shooting of a law enforcement officer under proof of "beyond all doubt" instead of "beyond a reasonable doubt" is simply parsing words. You cannot teach killing is wrong by killing. We are all God's children, and our first – and primary – right to life must always be protected and unconditional.

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The Catholic Conference of Illinois was created in 1969 to serve as the public policy voice of the Illinois bishops and the six dioceses of the state: Belleville, Chicago, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield-in-Illinois.

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