



**McHenry County Citizens for Choice**

P.O. Box 16 • Woodstock, Illinois 60098

# NEWSLETTER

*Produced by McHenry County Citizens for Choice Inc*

## Repeal PNA Now!

### Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995

*Through litigation in state and federal court, the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois succeeded for nearly 40 years in blocking laws in Illinois that would have forced young people to involve their parents in their abortion decision. Unfortunately in 2013, the Illinois Supreme Court allowed the Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995 to take effect. Decades of social science research shows that laws like this hurt young people and serve no valid government purpose.*

#### Under the Current PNA

1. If you decide to have an abortion and you are under 18 your doctor must notify an “adult family member” before you can have an abortion.
2. That family member must be someone over 21 who is a parent, grandparent, step-parent who lives with you or is your legal guardian. You may choose.
3. NOTIFICATION IS NOT CONSENT! They do not have to give you permission and they do not have the right to tell you that you cannot get the abortion.
4. Under certain conditions you may not need to notify anyone. For instance, if the doctor declares a medical emergency, the family member accompanies you, if your medical provider says you are a victim of abuse or neglect, you are married, divorced, widowed or emancipated, or you get a judicial bypass.
5. A “Judicial bypass is when a judge gives an order that allows a minor to have an abortion without notifying an adult. The young person must appear before the court and be prepared to present their case.

*See enclosed sheet on repealing harmful barriers to reproductive healthcare)*

#### Real Life Consequences

1. Family communication cannot be legislated. Most young people tell a parent about an unplanned pregnancy. For those who do not, it is usually for a very good reason. Fear of physical or emotional abuse, fear of being forced to bear a child against their will, fear of being thrown out of their home, parental illness or incarceration.
2. There are harms associated with Judicial bypass. Traveling to access or avoid the judicial bypass can be overwhelming, adding to the cost of the abortion.
3. There are opportunities for a breach of confidentiality when accessing the bypass. Arranging time away from school or home, fear of seeing someone they know at the courthouse exposing them to the harm they seek to avoid. There is the human cost of fear and/or shame in having to tell a stranger the most intimate details of their life. It is also irrational since Illinois law allows pregnant minors to make all other medical decisions with greater risk than abortion.
4. The ACLU bypass project has represented over 500 young people at judicial hearings since the law went into effect. More than 99.5 % were granted because the courts believed the minors were mature enough to make the decision independently.

**“The Only People PNA Really Affects Are The People It Hurts”**

.....Human Rights Watch

## TAKE ACTION NOW!

### Senate Bill 2190 and House Bill 1797 will repeal PNA

Senate Bill 2190 and House Bill 1797 repeal PNA and shield young people who do not have a parent with whom they can be safe. These identical bills will protect those vulnerable young people who fear and experience violence, homelessness, abuse, lack of financial support and being forced to give birth against their will.

### Take 60 Seconds to Stop Right-Wing Extremists

The anti-choice movement is fully engaged in opposing these bills to repeal PNA. We need to fight back and remind legislators that the majority of voters are pro-choice. Go to this Personal PAC website and send an automated email to your elected officials to urge them to vote YES to repeal PNA

<https://pnarepealaction.org>

...or **DIY - CALL - EMAIL -**

Our McHenry County legislators are all anti-choice with one exception—Suzanne Ness supports HB 1797. We need to thank her and let the others know that that they have a majority of pro-choice constituents.

Phone call script:

Hi, my name is (YOUR NAME), I live in (YOUR DISTRICT) and I'm calling because I want you to support the repeal of the Forced Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) law HB 1797 (when calling your Representative) / SB 2190 (when calling your Senator). The health and lives of young people are at risk and we need you to repeal PNA now.

Rep. Martin McLaughlin (224) 634-8300 **Email:** [McLaughlin@ilhousegop.org](mailto:McLaughlin@ilhousegop.org)  
Rep. Steven Reick - (815) 880-5340 **Email:** [reick@ilhousegop.org](mailto:reick@ilhousegop.org)  
Rep Tom Weber (847) 629-5439 **Email:** [weber@ilhousegop.org](mailto:weber@ilhousegop.org)  
Rep. Dan Ugaste (630) 797-5530 **Email:** [ugaste@ilhousegop.org](mailto:ugaste@ilhousegop.org)  
Rep. Suzanne Ness (224) 484-8620 **Email:** [info@repsnessil66.com](mailto:info@repsnessil66.com)  
Senator Dan McConchie (224) 662-4544  
Senator Craig Wilcox (815) 455-6330  
Senator Donald P. DeWitte (847) 214-8245

Script for Email or handwritten note:

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support the repeal of Illinois dangerous parental notice of abortion (PNA) law. The health and lives of young people in our state are at serious risk and it's your responsibility to protect them. We are counting on your support to repeal this harmful law and stand with our young people, not promote the agenda of the extreme right-wing extremists. Please vote YES (on HB 1797 or on SB 2190) to repeal PNA!

### Join Our Information Network

Visit Our Website!

[www.mcccprochoice.org](http://www.mcccprochoice.org)

:Get the latest information in the form you prefer. Keep in touch by sending us your

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### Thank You!!

For your loyal financial support. If you wish to contribute:

\_\_\_\_\_ Give yourself a once a year gift to MCCC of \$10 in your birth month to provide basic organizational support plus a subscription to our newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 or more gives you benefactor status and the opportunity to increase the scope and activities of MCCC.

*McHenry County Citizens for Choice, Inc. is a 501 (c)(4) organization. Contributions are not deductible.*

**April - May**

**2021**