

**Contact:****Penny Wiegert**

Director of Communication

pwiegert@rockforddiocese.org

Phone: (815) 399-4300

Fax: (815) 399-6225

555 Colman Center Drive

P.O. Box 7044

Rockford, IL 61125

www.rockforddiocese.org

**DIOCESE OF  
ROCKFORD**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

# PRESS RELEASE

## Bishop Malloy: 'Illinois Does Not Need to Legalize Assisted Suicide'

DIOCESE— Bishop David J. Malloy issued a statement today on the passage of Senate Bill 1950 which legalizes medically assisted suicide in the State of Illinois once it is signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker. Bishop Malloy and the Rockford Diocese Life and Evangelization Office have worked for months to mobilize Catholics to oppose this legislation. Catholics have met with legislators personally, written letters, placed phone calls and sent emails all in an effort to support the dignity of human life.

**Here is the Statement from Bishop David Malloy:**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Despite our best efforts of calling on our legislators, visiting Springfield and offering constant prayer, a bill which legalizes medically assisted suicide, Senate Bill 1950, passed in the wee hours of the morning today.

This bill will now go to the Governor's desk. I ask you to contact the governor and insist that he veto this affront to the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Assisted suicide violates the gift of human life and undermines the value of each human person, particularly those who are vulnerable.

If Illinois becomes the 12th state in our nation to legalize assisted suicide, vulnerable individuals, including those with rare conditions needing specialized treatment, will be offered lethal drugs instead of the care they need. The consequence is that there will be pressure on the suffering, the poor, the disabled, and others on the margins to end their lives rather than receive support.

There are many loving alternatives to assisted suicide including increased care for the poor, supporting and promoting programs and care for mental health, increased access to affordable health care and support and access to palliative and hospice services. These means combine the best of medical care with respect for the dignity of those who are suffering or close to death.

Illinois does not need to legalize assisted suicide. Our state and its people need to support the programs which offer help for the root causes of catastrophic sickness and those in mental health crisis.

Please continue to pray for respect for the dignity of human life, especially for those who seek our love, support and help as their lives draw to a close. (END)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, *"everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of (2280)."* The Catechism goes on to teach that *"Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life. It is gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations. Suicide is contrary to love for the living God (2281)."*

--END--

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 400,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford visit [www.rockforddiocese.org](http://www.rockforddiocese.org).