

As of late March, 2025, several items of concern are pending before the Illinois General Assembly.

HB 2827

This proposal is called “The Homeschool Act.” It reaches beyond homeschooling, however. It could also adversely affect the autonomy of our congregational and association schools.

All three Illinois LCMS District presidents, those of CID, NID, and SID, along with the respective District education executives wrote: “Our partners, such as the Illinois Coalition of Nonpublic Schools, Illinois Christian Home Educators, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the Catholic Conference of Illinois well document concerning measures, such as the requirement to provide confidential/personal student information to state authorities, require the registration/recognition of non-public schools by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the submission of curriculum for ISBE review and approval, and (contrary to the 2012 US Supreme Court decision *Hosanna Tabor v. EEOC* 565 U.S. 171) establishing state mandated requirements for who may teach in our Lutheran (and other non-public or home) schools.”

The entire text of their open letter is available. Find it at <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/christiancitizenship/2025-03-10-Joint%20Statement.pdf>

It is important to point out that since the open letter was written, the bill has now passed out of committee on to the full House of Representatives. Those concerned should contact their state House members. Currently there is no corresponding bill in the state Senate.

SB 9 and HB 1328

These bills concern assisted suicide, which seems to be the next life issues “frontier” in Illinois. The bill states that persons 18 years of age and older could request lethal medication if they have a terminal illness deemed incurable and irreversible and that will, according to reasonable medical judgment, result in death within six months, with or without appropriate medical treatment. As one instance, an insulin-dependent type 1 diabetic would qualify as having such a terminal disease.

Of course, predictions of “less than six months to live” often prove wrong, and the patients end up living on for much longer periods of time. It should also be noted that the American Medical Association officially opposes physician-assisted suicide. The proposed legislation would allow patients to “shop” for doctors who would break with the AMA on this matter and agree to help patients end their lives.

Not one single major national disability rights organization with a position on assisted suicide supports laws allowing assisted suicide. In fact, all the national disability rights organizations who have a position on assisted suicide *oppose* its legalization. These advocates for the vulnerable know something. We can learn from them.

The law teaches. If it starts deeming suicide to be legal, even if only in certain cases, the value of life is cheapened for all. People will notice. Some quite possibly will draw encouragement to give suicide a try for themselves.

A few other items . . .

HB 3637 and SB 2450 would not take disciplinary actions against physicians whose licenses are revoked or suspended in another state, so long as these doctors have not done something that Illinois finds wrong. This could be applied to those who are disciplined for performing abortions in other states. The pending legislation would allow them to practice and perform abortions in Illinois.

HB 3709 and SB 2444 would amend the state public higher education act to provide the abortion pill at public colleges and universities as part of “student health services.”

Likely coming in the 2026 legislative session: an effort to propose an amendment for the Illinois constitution to make abortion a constitutional right in this state. Watch for this one!