

Illinois governor agrees to allow Medicaid for abortions

September 28 2017, by John O'connor And Sophia Tareen

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner says he'll sign legislation that would provide state health insurance and Medicaid coverage for abortions.

The Republican took action Thursday. The General Assembly controlled by Democrats approved the measure in May but delayed sending it to Rauner until Monday, in part because he has changed his mind about support of the plan.

As a candidate in 2014, Rauner said he would support expanding coverage for abortions. But last April he said he opposed the idea and said the state should focus on improving the economy.

The legislation also removes language in Illinois law that states a desire to criminalize abortion if a 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing the procedure is overturned. Democrats adopted that provision after President Donald Trump expressed his opposition to abortion.

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