

Education Network of Christian Home-schoolers of New Jersey

ENOCH of NJ

Legislative E-lerc

Date: May 14, 2004

From: Mark August, Legislative Liaison, legislative_liaison@enochnj.org

Re: New Jersey Assembly Bill 1918 (A1918)

Thank you for responding to [yesterday's e-lerc](#). I have evidence that many calls have been received by legislative offices today. You are having an effect.

A1918 was REMOVED from the Assembly Education Committee hearing agenda for this upcoming Monday. This is the second time that this bill has appeared on the agenda for a hearing and then removed. We have not been able to determine the reason for this on-and-off again action. We have decided not to publicly speculate about those reasons. For whatever reason, I am grateful to God that we have been given more time to prepare. I had planned on writing an e-lerc today outlining our plans and strategies for Monday. Instead I have the following to offer:

1. No longer plan to be in Trenton on Monday. For those of you who had to scramble to make arrangements to be there Monday – I sympathize this is the second time I have asked my boss for time off on short notice, only to come back a day or two later saying "never mind."
2. If you have not been able to make personal contact with your legislator, please continue the phone calls. Even though arguments for and against the bill will not occur on Monday – the bill is still active – and we need to make our voices heard. Personal letters (sent the old-fashioned way by U.S. Mail) are the best way to register your opposition. Let me know whether your legislator is for or against this bill.
3. Continue with your family prayers about this issue. The suggestions in yesterday's email are still appropriate.
4. There may be amendments made to the bill when we see it again. Our position is that NO amendment will make this bill acceptable. It is fundamentally flawed. The current law under which New Jersey families homeschool is adequate. No government oversight is needed or desired (or affordable for that matter).

The task force is still trying to secure a date for a Rally. I hope to be able to contact you as soon as this upcoming Monday with a date for the rally. One great advantage of a rally is that we

won't cancel it at the last minute! Another advantage is that we can schedule it for a day when the entire Assembly is in session, so that the whole body can see us out in force.

For Your Information: There is only one more scheduled date on which the Assembly Education Committee may hear arguments about A1918 before the summer recess: **June 10th**. Keep this date in mind when making commitments – as we may be calling on you for support that day.

I am praying that after making a big impact at our rally, through our phone calls, letters and visits and most importantly by our prayers, we will not see this bill come up for a hearing again this year. Let us pray for the best, but stay prepared for the worst.

I would also like to thank the many of you who contacted me today after speaking with your legislator's office. Thank you for the information you provided about the bill being pulled from Monday's agenda – and thank you even more for taking the time to verify this information before passing it on. It is action like this, that helps us to maintain credibility and unity.