

**ENOCH of New Jersey Supplemental Elert  
Homeschool Rally  
Trenton, NJ ---- Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

May 22, 2004

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The Task Force held last minute planning by telephone Friday evening for the Trenton Homeschool Rally on Monday. Today at ENOCH's pre-convention meeting, we discussed those plans, the Rally and the potential consequences of A1918 proposed to regulate homeschooling. Several at the meeting mentioned the ramifications of the bill based on what other states have experienced and from our conjecture. We do not know how far the regulations will go if allowed to become law.

For instance, in a nearby state homeschool graduates are required to go through a medical exam in which young ladies are subjected to a gynecological examination. For the life of me, I don't know how this relates to education and high school graduation. What will happen here in New Jersey if Assemblywoman Weinberg is successful in pushing this bill through the legislature? Will our little ones be subjected to the humiliation of the same type of yearly exams to be allowed to homeschool? What if our children don't perform well on the required state public school assessment testing? Will failing the social indicators on those tests be used by the State Board of Education to force our children into government schools?

The truth is that we don't know what will happen when the State agencies get control of homeschooling in New Jersey. Homeschoolers have found sanctuary in their homes until now. The threat is extremely serious and the results can be destructive to our goals as parents and our children's well-being.

We need you at the Trenton Rally to show every legislator that this is a bad idea; that it is wrong to require these things of parents who have chosen a legitimate form of education; that is unconscionable to require homeschoolers to submit to this intrusion in our private lives by government.

You must make every effort to attend. This will be an Historical event for home education in New Jersey!

Please pray for this effort – we need wisdom and grace from above and to have the hearts of every legislator Providentially turn to support our effort.

Additional Information from Mark August, Legislative Liaison:

I have had several emails asking about what to expect for the day. Here's my best prediction:

A couple thousand homeschoolers with signs, banners and witty tee-shirts.

A fun and educational day for your children.

A group of speakers who have been selected to represent the wide variety of homeschoolers in New Jersey – but all with the same message. They will be speaking from a podium with some sort of amplification provided by the State House. Most will be NJ homeschoolers, but some will be elected officials. HSLDA will also be represented. For the most part the speakers will be “preaching to the choir” so to speak, because they will be addressing a large group of homeschoolers. There will be some in the crowd watching to see if the group agrees with what is being said. Here is where attentiveness and appropriate responses can help our cause.

There has been talk of songs or chants – we'll see what happens. We will open with the Star Spangled Banner.

The press may be wandering around (we sure pray they will be), and asking questions. It would be good to have a “sound byte” or two ready to answer why you would be opposed to the bill.

Questions that might be asked:

“Why are you here today?”

“Why do you oppose A1918?”

“What are you afraid of with this bill?”

“Why do you homeschool your children?”

“Do you test your children? If so, why not share the results?”

“What is wrong with Standardized Testing, the public schools use it?”

“Why not have medical exams, my neighbor's kids have to take a medical exam every year to be on the soccer team at school?”

“Will you homeschool for all 12 years?”

“What about socialization?”

HSLDA has reported that our children, their behavior and attitudes – have spoken volumes in the past in other States. You might want to rehearse with them their answers to a few simple questions that an interviewer might ask. Here's an example:

“How do you like homeschooling?”

“What is your favorite subject?”

“What grade are you in?” (This stumps some of us)

“Do you know why you are here today?”

If you do not already have answers to these questions, check out all the documents on ENOCH web site related to A1918:

Just a couple of reminders:

No signs with Sticks.

Bring a Lunch.

Bring both sunscreen and an umbrella – since this is a rain or shine event.

We should not enter the State House to use the bathrooms or cafeteria.

**Pray, pray, pray!**

**You are part of NJ Homeschool History!!!!**