



ENOCH of NJ Legislative Alert!

Date: October 1, 2008

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

Re: New Jersey Assembly Bill 3123 - UPDATE #1

In 2004, a task force consisting of leaders of various State level organizations in New Jersey, spearheaded the effort to oppose anti-homeschool freedom legislation.

That task force has convened again, has communicated by a series of emails, and an hour long conference phone conversation this afternoon. Our goal today, as it has always been, is to oppose any legislation which threatens homeschool freedoms in New Jersey. Our motto remains the same: "Many Voices - One Message." That message is that homeschooling in New Jersey has worked for 40 years without government interference and none is needed now. Just like we did in 2004, to be most effective, homeschoolers in New Jersey need to bring our united message to our respected lawmakers in a united way.

The task force consists of (in alphabetical order by organization name):

Kevin Kiernan, Catholic Homeschoolers of New Jersey (CHNJ)

Carolee Adams, Eagle Forum of New Jersey

Mark August, Education Network Of Christian Homeschooler (ENOCH) of New Jersey

Scott Woodruff, Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

Nan McVicker, New Jersey Homeschool Association (NJHA)

Nancy Plent, Unschoolers Network

What we are doing:

We are speaking to New Jersey lawmakers.

We are attempting to gather information about the motive behind this legislation at this particular time.

We are preparing material to distribute to you, which will help you better communicate arguments against this oppressive legislation.

We are trying to coordinate efforts - so that the lawmakers involved in this legislation will receive a coordinated, powerful message outlining our opposition.

What we know:

The bill was introduced and immediately sent to the Education Committee, which will not meet again until October 16. There is no information about whether this bill will be discussed at that meeting. Right now many of the legislators are unavailable because of the current religious holidays. Because this bill was sent to a committee, most of the legislators have no knowledge of this bill.

Many of you have been asking, "What can we do?!!!!"

What we are planning:

While we are hoping that it will not be necessary, we are planning to ask all homeschoolers in New Jersey to join us in a *coordinated* email, phone, letter writing campaign targeted to those lawmakers who do have knowledge of the bill and who could influence its status at this time. We will be contacting you all early next week with the coordinated plan of action, including a list of talking points you may choose to use, and a list of contacts.

We may be asking some of you, who live in key districts, to join us in visiting your lawmakers to make personal appeals and arguments.

Right now we are *not* calling for you to make calls, write emails or write letters. We believe coordinating that effort will have a greater impact.

If you have any direct information about the motives behind this bill please contact me or someone on the task force. If you have had contact with a legislator about this issue already, please let me know about that, including whether the legislator had any knowledge of this bill and how your input was received.

If you have short talking points that you think would be helpful in this battle, please send them to me.

Please continue to pray for our freedoms.

Faithfully,

Mark August
ENOCH of NJ

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