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FINANCIAL REASONS TO OPPOSE A.4033

PRESS CONFERENCE
THE STATE HOUSE
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GOOD MORNING! MY NAME IS CAROLEE ADAMS. I'M PRESIDENT OF EAGLE FORUM OF NEW JERSEY AND THE MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN EDUCATED AT HOME FOR ALL OF THEIR LIVES EXCEPT SEVEN MONTHS WHEN MY DAUGHTER ENTERED FIRST GRADE. I WILL ADDRESS FINANCIAL REASONS TO OPPOSE A4033.

I BEGIN WITH SOME PERSONAL HISTORY.

MY DAUGHTER, RAE, IS A JUNIOR AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WELLESLEY COLLEGE REPUBLICANS, A POSITION ONCE HELD BY SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON. RAE IS CURRENTLY INTERNING AGAIN WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON, D. C. WHICH MANAGES THE ENTIRE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE NATION. THIS ALLOWS MY DAUGHTER THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK 2-DOWN FROM PRESIDENT BUSH.

MY SON, CHARLES, ONE OF THE YOUNGEST STUDENTS TO ATTEND A COLLEGE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM AS A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE AT BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WAS THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE NEW JERSEY STOCK MARKET GAME, FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE NATIONAL STOCK MARKET GAME, RAISED A SEEING EYE PUPPY, ELECTED A SENIOR PATROL LEADER, AND JUST COMPLETED AN EAGLE PROJECT COLLECTING OVER 750 GIFTS FOR NEW JERSEY FAMILIES OF DEPLOYED SOLDIERS. THE UNITED STATES DEPARMENT OF DEFENSE COMMENDED HIS PROJECT.

THE ONLY COST BORNE BY NEW JERSEY TAXPAYERS TO EDUCATE MY CHILDREN AND THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OCCURRED WHEN MY DAUGHTER SPENT 7 MONTHS IN A FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM. CONVERSELY, MY FAMILY HAS CONTINUALLY ABSORBED MANY PERSONAL EXPENSES TO FIGHT UNNECESSARY PROPOSED HOME SCHOOL LEGISLATION LIKE A4033 SINCE WE FIRST BEGAN IN 1987.

AT THAT TIME, WE WERE SPARED FROM A STATE TEST CASE BECAUSE THE UNNECESSARY LAW SUIT PROPOSED AGAINST US COULD HAVE COST MY TOWN OVER $250,000 TO PURSUE.

HOWEVER, AS THEN GOVERNOR FLORIO PROJECTED A HUGE SCHOOL FUNDING CUTBACK, MY TOWN'S CITIZENRY ROSE UP TO DEFEND US RECOGNIZING WE WERE UNDULY HARRASSED AND THE COST OF THIS FRIVOLOUS LAW SUIT COULD BE BETTER APPLIED TO HIRE MORE TEACHERS AND KEEP TAXES STABLE.

OVER 15 YEARS LATER, A SIMILAR SITUATION EMERGES. WITH NEW JERSEY'S $5 BILLION STATE DEFICIT, ONE CASUALTY WILL BE NEW JERSEY CLASSROOMS. MANY DISTRICTS COULD SEE LITTLE OR NO NEW FUNDING FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW AND TOWNS WILL FACE PRESSURE TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES TO COVER RISING SCHOOL COSTS. (SEE ATTACHED NEWS ARTICLES.)

IF A4033 IS PASSED, IT WILL ADD MORE COSTS TO THE BELEAGUERED SCHOOL BUDGETS OF MANY TOWNS, DEPRIVING THEM OF RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ORDER TO UNNECESSARILY TEST US AND PAY FOR EXPENSIVE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

ALSO, THE FEDERAL "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT" INCLUDED AN AMENDMENT STATING HOME EDUCATED CHILDREN COULD NOT BE FORCED TO TAKE FEDERAL TESTS. IF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FORCES THOSE TESTS UPON HOME EDUCATORS, THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY COULD ALSO LOSE ITS FEDERAL FUNDING AND INCREASE OUR MASSIVE $5BILLION STATE DEFICIT.

I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT BILLS LIKE A4033 CAN BE INTRODUCED WITHOUT APPROPRIATING A COST TO THE TAXPAYER. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT A4033 WILL COST THE TAXPAYERS MONEY, AND THE SPONSORS AND CO-SPONSORS FAILED THE TAXPAYER BY AVOIDING ITS MENTION! THIS IS AN UNFUNDED MANDATE! NEW JERSEY TAXPAYERS ARE UNDER ASSAULT AND HOME EDUCATORS HAVE NO DESIRE TO WORSEN THEIR HORRIBLE DILEMMA BY FORCING THEM TO PAY FOR THE UNNECESSARY AND UNDETERMINED COSTS OF THIS WRONGFUL BILL.

NEW JERSEY TAXPAYERS AND HOME EDUCATORS SAY:
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

THANK YOU.
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