

PRESS RELEASE

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January 13, 2004 – Yesterday, nearly 250 New Jerseyans came to Trenton in an effort to dissuade legislators from placing unnecessary regulations on homeschoolers. The bill, A4033, would place restrictive and costly requirements on families who choose this successful and growing alternative to educate their children, and add to the burden of public school costs.

In response to constituent's meeting her in the State Capitol, bill sponsor Assemblywoman Charlotte Weinberg said, "I really despise your guerilla war tactics and I told everybody the bill is not going to be up today. Because of this, this is all the more reason to pass this bill."

Mrs. Weinberg (D-Bergen) is Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee that oversees DYFS. Homeschoolers say this legislation is a distraction away from the real problems, and that legislators should focus on fixing DYFS. The bill punishes homeschool families for DYFS failures.

During a radio interview, Weinberg stated emphatically that she believes that public schools should become monitoring systems for homeschoolers to ensure no child slips through the cracks. In other words, the schools will start doing what DYFS should have been doing.

Homeschoolers are also deeply concerned about potential regulations that may be promulgated by the State Board of Education, a group of appointed members which will be given that authority in this bill.

The New Jersey Legislative website now lists 2004-2005 bills. Mrs. Weinberg has filed over 70 bills as sponsor and over 80 as co-sponsor--but none seem to deal with homeschooling yet.

Thousands of homeschool families are watching to see if the bill will be introduced in the new legislature to determine what action should be taken.

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PRESS RELEASE CONTACT INFORMATION:

HOMESCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO A4033

Tricounty Home Educators Association

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New Jersey Homeschool Association (NJHA)

Tim Haas, President
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Education Network of Christian Homeschoolers of NJ

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Unschoolers Network

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Catholic Homeschoolers of New Jersey

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HSLDA – Homeschool Legal Defense Association

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OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

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