

PRESS RELEASE

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January 14, 2004 – On Monday, January 12, 250 + New Jersey citizens arrived in Trenton early to dissuade legislators from placing unnecessary regulations on homeschoolers. The bill, A4033, would place restrictive and costly requirements on families who select this successful and growing choice to educate their children, and add to the already heavy burden of beleaguered tax payers through increased public school costs.

In response to homeschoolers 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 from the real problems, and that legislators should center their focus on fixing DYFS. The bill targets homeschool families for DYFS failures.

Homeschoolers are deeply concerned about the DYFS distraction and potential regulations that may be promulgated by the unelected State Board of Education, which will be given that authority in this bill. As an example, one father questioned that, "If homeschool students do not succeed in the assessment tests that are designed specifically for public schools, will they be forced to enroll in the public schools?"

The New Jersey Legislative website now lists 2004-2005 bills. None listed seem to deal with homeschooling – yet. Thousands of homeschool families are watching closely to see if the bill is introduced in the new legislature.

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PRESS RELEASE CONTACT INFORMATION:

HOMESCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO A4033

Tricounty Home Educators Association

Mark August, President
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New Jersey Homeschool Association (NJHA)

Tim Haas, President
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Education Network of Christian Homeschoolers of NJ

(ENOCH 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

Scott Woodruff, Esq. – NJ Representative
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OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Eagle Forum of New Jersey

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