

OPPOSITION TO HOMESCHOOL LEGISLATION A1918

TRENTON RALLY SPEECH FOR MAY 24 2004

Thousands of homeschool families across the state have been shocked by the presumptuous actions of one legislator. That legislator seems to have ignored the principles of freedom and common sense while using homeschool families as whipping boys for the failures of DYFS.

Homeschooling parents became rightfully concerned that Assemblywoman Weinberg's homeschool regulating bill (now know as A1918) might be fast tracked through the legislature during the last session. Hundreds of parents contacted MRS. Weinberg's office, calling for the withdrawal of the bill. She ignored the hundreds of appeals by introducing bill A1918 on Thursday, January 8, 2004.

A small army of homeschool moms, dads, and students came to Trenton on Monday, January 12, to provide their legislators with information about the bill and homeschooling, and to show that they overwhelmingly opposed any legislation of this kind. The bill was halted in its tracks only to be reintroduced by Mrs. Weinberg in the current session. She has adamantly stated that she will do whatever it takes to get this bill passed in response to what she called our "Guerilla Tactics." To hear a servant of the People speak in this manner and not respond to our appeals is shocking indeed.

The full ramifications of this bill's enactment, its cost to the public school system and taxpayers have not been fathomed.

Homeschoolers around the state have cited numerous logical, common sense objections to this anti-homeschooling bill, a few of which are:

- "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" – Homeschooling is not broken, it works! It works so well that it has become an embarrassment to the education establishment!
- It will add to the financially burdensome public school system that constantly cries out for more of our tax dollars
- It will further burden single-income family budgets where sacrifice is already too familiar.
- A family will spend hundreds of dollars more each year to comply with the unconscionable medical exam provision of this bill that is blatantly an invasion of privacy.

(maybe a law should be enacted that requires every legislator to take a thorough medical exam that they pay for out of their own pockets prior to each session, and have it posted on the state website for our approval to continue in the legislature. and while we're at it, we could require every legislator to be tested in their knowledge of government, and if they don't

pass they must be remediated before setting one foot into the legislative chamber.)

- you are being profiled as suspected child abusers, and unable to care for your children
- Homeschool families are law-abiding contributors to society, actively engaged in their communities.

There are thousands of success stories from homeschool families across our state and nation; of parents who love their children and country dearly; who have sacrificed themselves to train and prepare their children for life.

The greatest concern today is that this legislation is an encroachment of our freedom as Americans. Freedom is one of the most important components of American self-government: the national fabric of our society is woven with Freedom, Liberty and Justice.

Historically, parents have been recognized as the most capable providers for the physical, mental, educational, and spiritual needs of their children. They have been shown to do the best for their children. They have had the Freedom to raise their children without government intervention in America for centuries.

This bill is saying that Government can and must be used to control every aspect of family life. This cannot and must not be allowed!

Parents are zealous for Freedom. They must be free to exercise American self-government; and free to produce the heirs of freedom, preserving that freedom for all Americans.

Homeschooling need not be regulated. It is already recognized and defined adequately under current law and case precedent. Needless laws must not encroach upon our Freedom any further. I appeal to the entire legislature to defeat this legislation. It is the highest purpose of government to protect our rights that we may live freely!

Thank you and god bless your efforts!

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