



**New Jersey Catholic Conference
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To: Assembly Education Committee Members

From: George V. Corwell, Ed.D.
Director: Office of Education

Date: June 4, 2015

Re: A-4288 (Schaer, Lagana, Eustace, Lampitt, Kean, and Vainieri Huttle, Garcia, Wolfe)

The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic Schools Families strongly support A-4288. The bill would provide a modest opportunity for equipping nonpublic schools with safety measures to protect nonpublic school children.

The public school community has had a fund (currently funded at \$195,491.00), labeled Security Aid in the State Budget for many years now. This is a fungible account, although the title is, in fact, "Security Aid." The description of the account from the Budget is as follows:

Security Aid - Aid is provided as a base amount for every student plus an additional allocation that varies based on the district's concentration of at-risk designated students. (Page D-85 of Governor Christie's FY 2016 Budget)

No such remedy exists to assist nonpublic schools in keeping their children safe. Because all children are worthy of health and safety protections, we are most grateful to the sponsors and cosponsors for introducing this bill. The bill is written in order to provide assistance to nonpublic school children without violating any Constitutional provisions.

I would be happy to answer any questions on the legislation, and we respectfully request that you support this legislation and release it from your Committee today.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

GVC:ac

Emailed Communication

**Representing the Archdiocese of Newark, Diocese of Camden, Diocese of Metuchen,
Diocese of Paterson, Diocese of Trenton, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic and
Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese**