



**NEW JERSEY CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
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ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: S-1872 (Lesniak, Kean, and Kyrillos), the Opportunities Scholarship Act passed the Senate Economic Growth Committee. The bill is now being sent to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. The bill is a revised version of the Urban Enterprise Zone Jobs Scholarship Act from last session. The major revision of this bill is that there is a dual qualifying standard of 1) poverty and 2) residence in a district that has a chronically failing school for students to receive scholarships. Additionally, the bill has an Education Improvement Fund available as competitive grants to chronically failing schools to finance the adoption of innovative educational practices with the objective of improving student performance.

OUR

POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families support this legislation as an opportunity to provide students with meaningful school choice options.

ACTION: Please contact members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and ask them to vote for S-1872 when it appears before them. If your Senator is not on the committee, contact him/her and ask them to urge their fellow Senators on the Committee to vote for the bill when it appears before them. Please continue to make periodic contact with the Senators so that they recognize that this is an important matter for the Nonpublic School Community.

You may also use the New Jersey Catholic Conference Capwiz system which may be accessed at:

<http://www.capwiz.com/njcathconf/home/>

We ask that you give special thanks to Senator Ray Lesniak (D-20), Senator Thomas Kean (R-21), and Senator Joseph Kyrillos (R-13) for their willingness to co-sponsor this legislation. Also, thank Senator Robert Singer (R-30), Senator Steve Oroho (R-24), Senator Joseph Vitale (D-19), and Senator James Beach (D-6) for their affirmative votes.

Please enact this Alert as quickly as possible. For your convenience we have attached two sets of questions and answers to address the issues in the bill. You can also find this information on our website:

http://www.njcathconf.com/content/catholid_education_school_choice.php

Thank you for your consideration.