

# New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families



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## **ACTION ALERT**

**ISSUE:** The safety and security of children is of primary importance to parents and educators. After the tragic events at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, security is more important than ever for all students in nonpublic schools.

**IN THE LEGISLATURE:** Two bills are before the state legislature. **A4597** is in the State Assembly and **S3080** is in the State Senate. Both bills have the same purpose, which is increasing the current security aid from the current \$75. To \$150. per K-12 student.

**Our Position:** Security aid for our students is underfunded. Risk to all students is real, especially when faith-based institutions become targets for violence. This further appropriation would increase the amount of security aid so that schools can take further steps now, during this school year, to put additional security measures in place for the safety of all. Public school funding for security is approximately \$205. per student.

### **ACTION:**

1. Please contact your State Senator and Assembly members for your state legislative district. Ask your **Senator to support S3080**, and your **Assembly members to support A4597**. To find your Senator and Assembly members, go to: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp> and click on the word "municipality" in the lower right-hand section of the web page.
2. Please call **Senate President Steve Sweeney at 856-251-9801**. Here is the message: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ town/city. I am very concerned about protecting nonpublic school children in the wake of recent tragic events at a place of worship in Pittsburgh. I would like to ask Senate President Steve Sweeney to post **Senate Bill S3080** in the Education Committee so that there can be a vote for equitable funding to help keep children safe in nonpublic schools who currently receive less funding than their public school counterparts.
3. Please call **Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin at 732-855-7441**. Here is the message: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ town/city. I am very concerned about protecting nonpublic school children in the wake of recent tragic events at a place of worship in Pittsburgh. I would like to ask Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin to post **Assembly Bill A4597** in the Education Committee so that there can be a vote for equitable funding to help keep children safe in nonpublic schools who currently receive less funding than their public school counterparts.
4. Please contact Assemblyman Gary Schaer at **973-249-3665** to thank him for introducing and sponsoring this legislation.

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS ACTION TO HELP PROTECT OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN.**