

September 3, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2994 (Lieber) – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

The Friends Committee on Legislation (FCL) urges your approval of AB 2994.

The federal “No Child Left Behind Act” allows parents to opt out from having their children’s contact information made available to military recruiters. However, few parents, students or school employees are aware of the options. As a result, pupils’ contact information is routinely given to recruiters without their consent.

Similarly, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test (ASVAB) is routinely administered to students without the knowledge that their personal information will be provided to recruiters. This occurs even though the Department of Defense has the ability to administer the test without having the information used for recruiting purposes. This process is known as “Option 8.”

In sum, choice that is not informed is not choice, and consent that is not informed is not consent. If schools must have parental consent to administer aspirin to students, we think it is only reasonable for consent to be obtained prior to making students’ information available to recruiters.

AB 2994 simply puts procedures in place which will allow parents and students the opportunity to exercise those options which current law already allows. ***It does so without placing an undue burden on schools and without restricting the rights of parents and students who expressly choose to make their information available to recruiters.***

Simply put, AB 2994 fairly balances the rights of all stakeholders, and we were disappointed by the partisan nature of the vote in both the Senate and the Assembly. ***Legislation that carefully balances competing interests should receive bipartisan support.***

FCL urges you to affirm the rights of *all Californians* by signing AB 2994 into law. Please feel free to contact our office if you would like to discuss our position.

Sincerely yours,

JIM LINDBURG  
Legislative Director

Cc: Assembly Member Sally Lieber