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## ICYMI: "End Sick Time Payouts For N.J. Public Workers"

Sunday, November 20, 2011 • Tags: [Pension and Benefits](#)

From The Times of Trenton

Times of Trenton Editorial Board  
November 20, 2011

Never one to mince words, Gov. Chris Christie was forthright last week during a speech before members of the state's League of Municipalities.

Using the occasion to exhort lawmakers to carry out more of his suggested "tool kit" items, the governor also reiterated his call to end sick time payouts for New Jersey's retiring public workers.

Some of the measures Gov. Christie is counting on to help bring about property tax relief are complicated and thorny initiatives.

The push to end the widespread practice of workers cashing in unused sick time is not.

While Democratic legislative leaders have offered a \$7,500 cap on sick-time payouts, the governor is adamant about doing away with the payouts entirely. ...

Gov. Christie also wants to halt the stockpiling of vacation time for more than one year. He's right. ...

... the state can no longer afford to pay out millions every year because some workers salt away their sick time for a

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healthy payout at the end of their careers.

That sort of bonanza must end. The governor's plan to do so is a fair one. It would not take away anything from employees who have already accrued the time. But it would establish a new clear and consistent policy that prohibits sick time and vacation benefits from being used as a bank.

We urge legislators to act immediately and make that change.

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