

State of New Jersey

Governor Phil Murphy

## This Week in New Jersey: March 29, 2019

03/29/2019



### Governor Murphy, Secretary Of Higher Education Smith Ellis Announce Vision For A Student Bill Of Rights, New Plan For New Jersey Higher Education

Governor Phil Murphy and Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis announced the release of “Where Opportunity Meets Innovation: A Student-Centered Vision for New Jersey Higher Education,” an expansive plan to ensure higher education meets student needs and to galvanize New Jersey’s innovation economy. Governor Murphy and Secretary Smith Ellis unveiled the plan at Rutgers University-Newark, surrounded by students, state officials, and other higher education stakeholders

“New Jersey’s great colleges and universities set the course to make our state the hub for American innovation and economic opportunity,” **said Governor Murphy.** “My Administration has committed to growing New Jersey from the middle out and lifting communities from the bottom up. There’s no better way to achieve those goals than strengthening our state’s institutions of higher education. In a knowledge-based global economy, what New Jerseyans know will matter a lot more than who they know.”

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### Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Creating Retirement Savings Option For New Jersey Workers

Governor Phil Murphy signed A4134 into law, establishing the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program. The legislation requires employers with 25 or more employees to participate in a retirement savings program administered through automatic payroll deductions, allowing employees of small businesses to save for retirement and take control of their financial futures. Further, employees of businesses of any size would be able to participate in the retirement savings program.

"Saving for retirement is paramount for all employees, but too often, those who work for small businesses don't have a simple way to set aside these savings," **said Governor Murphy.** "By creating the Secure Choice Savings Program, we are ensuring that every worker in New Jersey will have the opportunity to save for the future. We are creating more opportunities for future retirees and generations of workers to follow."

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### Governor Murphy Designates Week In March As Doula Appreciation Week

Governor Phil Murphy signed a joint resolution (SJR120) designating March 22 to March 28 of each year as "Doula Appreciation Week" in New Jersey.

Doulas support healthy pregnancies by providing culturally appropriate, social and emotional support to pregnant women throughout the prenatal period, labor, and delivery, as well as the postpartum period. Research demonstrates that support from a doula is associated with lower caesarian section rates, fewer obstetric interventions, fewer complications, and the improved health of mothers and babies after delivery.

"Improving health outcomes for our mothers and infants is critical in building a stronger, fairer, and healthier New Jersey," **said Governor Murphy.** "I am proud to sign this resolution into law today to bring awareness to the important role doulas can play in ensuring healthy pregnancies and healthy babies."

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### Ag Grewal, Dep Commissioner Announce Four New Environmental Lawsuits Focused On Contamination Allegedly Linked To Dupont, Chemours, And 3m

Continuing the State's commitment to holding polluters accountable, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe announced today the filing of four new Natural Resource Damage (NRD) lawsuits.

"The companies we're suing today knew full well the risks involved with these harmful chemicals, but chose to foul our soil, waterways, and other precious natural resources with them anyway," **said Attorney General Grewal.** "On our watch, polluters like these who put profit above public well-being now can expect to pay for the clean-up of their contamination, for their violation of State laws designed to protect our environment and health, and, where appropriate, to fully compensate the State and its citizens for the precious natural resources they've damaged or destroyed."

"We continue to take aggressive actions to hold polluters accountable and protect public health and the environment," **Commissioner McCabe said.** "It is imperative that these companies pay for the damages that they have caused and for the environmental risks they have created. We will continue to take strong measures such as these to protect the residents of the state, particularly those living in communities where the most harm has occurred."

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### Governor Murphy Joins Celebration At Paterson Great Falls Historical Park 10th Anniversary

Governor Phil Murphy, Senator Bob Menendez, Congressman Bill Pascrell, and Mayor Andre Sayegh gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park.

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