



*What They're Saying:*

## "This Is Groundbreaking Stuff"

*Governor Christie's State Of The State Was "Aimed At The Heart And Common Sense"*

**Former Governor James E. McGreevey:** "This is groundbreaking stuff." (Christie's move on drug treatment bridges the gap between N.J. and N.H., Tom Moran, [Star-Ledger](#), 1/12/16)

**Debra Wentz, President Of The New Jersey Association Of Mental Health And Addiction Agencies:** "You can pay lip service to this kind of area, but when you put your money where your mouth is, it's huge. It's a rare day when the priorities of providers to services to vulnerable populations and government align to the extent that they did. It's an unprecedented, historic commitment of funding to increase rates." (Josh Cornfield, "Christie pledges \$100M for drug treatment in state address", [Associated Press](#), 1/13/16)

**Former Governor Christine Todd Whitman:** "It was a speech aimed at the heart and common sense. He looked good and ended on a note that would resonate with not just the residents of NJ, but also the rest of the country..." (Claude Brodesser-Akner, "What did political pros think of Christie's State of the State?," [Star-Ledger](#), 1/12/16)

**New Jersey Business and Industry Association:** "NJBIA Applauds Governor Christie's Call for Eliminating Estate Tax" (Press Release, 1/12/16)

- "Eliminating the estate tax is a great first step that would send a signal that New Jersey is serious about improving the state's economic climate, staying competitive with its neighboring states and keeping jobs within our borders."

**Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey:** "CIANJ Applauds Elimination Of Estate Tax" (Press Release, 1/12/16)

- "Action on this issue would benefit every citizen. Middle class families who have worked hard their entire lives will be able to spend their retirement years in New Jersey with family and friends."

**Assembly Republican Budget Officer Declan O'Scanlon:** "The governor's commitment to increase funding for substance abuse and mental health is welcome news and an area that deserves focus. Addictions to heroin, cocaine, prescription drugs and alcohol can destroy individuals, ruin families and harm society..." (Press Release, 1/12/16)

- "Increasing funding for treating mental health, which often contributes to addiction, is a positive way to help save lives"

and families."

**Assemblyman Jon Bramnick:** "Fabulous! Told it the way it was and is. Basically said you are putting mandatory spending in the Constitution of New Jersey and you are pitting one interest group against another. Really bad policy. This one they went too far, the Democrats." (NJTV News, 1/12/16)

**Senator Steve Oroho:** "Governor Christie was right today. This trend has to stop and it has to stop now. We must join together to take immediate action to curb this outflow of income and capital by eliminating the estate tax, making our state more competitive." (Press Release, 1/12/16)

**Assembly Deputy Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco:** "The Governor delivered a clear and unmistakable message that while New Jersey has accomplished much over the last five years, we still have a long way to go. It's time to put politics aside and get back to the bipartisan reforms needed to make our state more affordable. Fixing our problems is not an insurmountable challenge if we put policy ahead of politics." (Press Release, 1/12/16)

**Senator Jeff Van Drew:** "There's some really solid points that were made there, it is an abomination in New Jersey how much people pay in property taxes, and for that matter pension taxes." (JT Aregood, "Reaction Mixed from South Jersey Dems After State of State," [PolitickerNJ](#), 1/12/16)

**Otto Hernandez, Vice President Of Academic Affairs at Atlantic Cape Community College:** "We are extremely happy with the results of our College Readiness II program and thank Governor Christie for his recognition of a program that is helping a number of entering freshmen quickly become college-ready in the subject of math." (Diane D'Amico, "Christie highlights success of remedial college-prep program," [Press of Atlantic City](#), 1/12/16)

**Assemblyman David Rible:** "The Governor's spot on. We need to focus on where [charter schools] are working. And if there are failing public schools, we need to be looking to see if a charter school can fit in that community." (Linh Tat, "Christie vows to 'aggressively prioritize' charter schools, to mixed reactions", [Politico NJ](#) 1/12/16)

**Roger Bodman, Public Strategies Impact:** "Quintessential Chris Christie, isn't it? It was tough, it was powerful, it was forward thinking. He gave us the hard unvarnished truth about that pension program and what it would mean to the state and its future. And it was a punch in the chest and it should have been. Because that's exactly what it's going to be." (NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams, 1/12/16)

**Stu Loeser, Former Chief Spokesperson To New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg:** "This wasn't a State of the State speech as much as a valedictory on a job well-done. The message came through loud and clear - 'I can lead because I've led.'...This was a speech by a smart, tough, strong, compassionate and principled governor — at least, as he explained it." (Claude Brodesser-Akner, "What did political pros think of Christie's State of the State?", [Star-Ledger](#), 1/12/2016)

**Bill Pascrell, III, Democratic strategist:** "I think the governor accomplished his goal tonight..." (NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams, 1/12/16)

**Matt Hale, Political Science Professor at Seton Hall:** "Overall I thought it was a very good speech...." (News 12, 1/12/16)

**Nicole Cole, President And CEO Of The New Jersey Charter Schools Association:** "Under this Administration, thousands of children across New Jersey have realized their potential when provided access to high-quality charter schools. The foundation for today's charter school successes has been laid with the Administration's increased emphasis on accountability through the rigorous charter school application, renewal, and review processes." (Linh Tat, "Christie vows to 'aggressively prioritize' charter schools, to mixed reactions", [Politico NJ](#) 1/12/16)

**Larry Nespoli, President Of The New Jersey Council Of County Colleges:** "This tells parents and students that if you are struggling, we can go in and make good things happen." (Diane D'Amico, "Christie highlights success of remedial college-prep program," [Press of Atlantic City](#), 1/12/16)

**Chasing News' Bill Spadea:** "combination of compassion and hard nosed politics from @ChrisChristie He's defined the enemy of the taxpayers and the most vulnerable..." (Tweet, 1/12/16)

**NJ Advance Media's Stephen Stirling:** "Quibbles aside, Christie's substance abuse proposals are the most robust of any NJ governor in recent history." (Tweet, 1/12/16)