

# Office of the Governor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: March 6, 1998

### Governor's Weekly Radio Message

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

Gov. Whitman's message this week focuses on her efforts to provide New Jerseyans with real, meaningful auto insurance reform. The State Legislature has agreed to deliver to the Governor legislation that meets her conditions for reform by March 30. Those conditions are that the plan should guarantee lower rates, make insurance affordable for all good drivers, and minimize cost shifts to health insurance without encouraging additional lawsuits.

Attached is the text of the message. The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

#### Governor's Weekly Radio Message

March 6, 1998

If you're like most people who call New Jersey home, you have been waiting 25 years for meaningful automobile insurance reform in our state. And you know that we continue to pay, on average, the highest rates of any state in the nation.

I'm sure you've heard all the reasons New Jerseyans pay such high car insurance rates - from our population density to our propensity for filing lawsuits. Well, there may be reasons, but there is absolutely no excuse for not trying our best to make auto insurance more affordable for the people of New Jersey. I'm happy to let you know that there is light at the end of our 25-year tunnel.

The State Legislature has agreed to deliver to my desk legislation that meets conditions I have insisted upon for real reform. Those conditions are that the reform must guarantee lower rates and enable every good driver to afford car insurance. What's more, it must minimize cost shifts to health insurance. And it must do all this without encouraging additional lawsuits.

That's real reform. I asked the leaders of the Legislature for a firm and final date for action. They have promised to deliver on it by March 30. And we are working with them to meet it. A special joint committee of the Assembly and Senate is hard at work to reach this goal.

And to make sure they have all the help they need, I have committed the full staff resources of my office - as well as my own personal time - to reach the March 30 deadline. Of course, that deadline is fast approaching. We're doing our part to meet my promise to the people of New Jersey.

You can do your part, too. You have always let me know how important this issue is to you. Be sure you let your legislators know it as well. We've waited a quarter-century for a car insurance system that we can afford. Now it's time for results.

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