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June 29, 2010 - The Final FY 2011 Budget "It's a first step toward bringing fiscal sanity to New Jersey."

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Asbury Park Press, Sign off on budget: "...this budget needs to be passed..."

Daily Journal, State lawmakers have to approve budget on time: "...both Republicans and Democrats should support this painful budget. It's a first step toward bringing fiscal sanity to New Jersey."

The Record, Almost there: "The final budget is not expected to have strayed far from Governor Christie's original proposal... Governor Christie is to be lauded for setting the debate in New Jersey - there is no one who now questions the need to make drastic cuts...The budget before the Legislature is but the first step in a very new direction."

Courier-Post, Applaud leaders for compromising: "Christie would seem to get most of what he wanted -- a budget that truly begins to scale back the size of our state government and does not rely on a bevy of tax increases. He gets a budget that makes the best of a recession situation..."

Home News Tribune, A budget that offers nothing to like - except an agreement: "It's a budget in which Gov. Chris Christie is doing what he said he would do - slashing spending while not raising taxes...he has lived up to his pledges, and had every reason to believe that he was elected to do what he has done...We can't give a hit to a spending plan this bleak. But we can give a HIT to a process that, for better or worse, has produced a budget for which, in its broad strokes, a majority of New Jerseyans have asked."

Tom Moran, The Star-Ledger, Gov. Chris Christie KOs Democrats in New Jersey budget bout: "Today, Democrats are retreating in chaos. They stumble through the hallways of the capitol like a defeated army, complete with grousing about their generals...Mark this as a defining moment for the governor. Round 1 is over, and he won it in a knockout. In the end, Democrats were able to win only a few shifts that amount to less than 1 percent of the total budget. The rest is all Christie."

New York Post, A Tale Of Two States: "Says Christie: "The bill has come due." Which is why his gap-closing relies almost entirely on spending cuts -- no borrowing, fiscal gimmickry or tax hikes...Christie also called for a constitutional amendment to permanently cap hikes in state and local spending and property taxes at 2.5 percent. "We are not turning state government upside down just to solve the crisis this year," he said, but to "reduce the chance that there will be another crisis next year." Are you listening, Gov. Paterson?"

The Trenton Times, Exacting Cuts Largely On Target: A long overdue antidote to profligate spending and fiscal mismanagement that stretches back at least 20 years, the governor's budget plan includes reductions that will affect all New Jerseyans. Overall, we agree with Gov. Christie and his campaign to trim government service and spending. There is no other way to address the \$10.7 billion shortfall bedeviling the state, no other course to correct a system so overextended it's in danger of collapse.

The Trentonian, It's A Draconian, Necessary Budget: The fiscal measures that Christie has proposed are draconian, nasty . . . and absolutely necessary. They are absolutely necessary for reasons Christie cited in proposing the bitter fiscal medicine. If you will forgive us a we-told-you-so, we have longed harped in this space that government and public education were pricing themselves out of reach. New Jersey has now arrived at that end-point - with a crash.

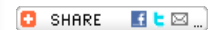
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Fredric U. Dicker, New York Post, Finally, Gov (In New Jersey) Gets Tough: *"The governor yesterday took strong action to halt the state's "addiction to spending" by slashing expenditures, cutting the workforce, backing a 2.5 percent cap on annual increases in state and local spending, and, in the process, closing a near-\$11 billion deficit..."Raising taxes again on the people of New Jersey, the highest taxed citizens in the country, would be insane," he continued. "If you tax them, they will leave." Christie proposed a \$29.3 billion budget that was slightly smaller than the Garden State's current spending plan. By contrast, Paterson proposed a \$134 billion budget in January, slightly larger than this year's spending plan and including more than \$1 billion in new taxes."*

Steve Adubato, NJ.com, A- for Christie's Budget...You Say?: *"But, this is the budget that needed to be introduced a long time ago. Don't get me wrong, I have some disagreement with the governor on his budget, but overall, I think he is doing the right thing in a big way."*

Carl Golden, NJ.com, Christie's Transformation Budget: *The state budget, it's been said, is 10 per cent a fiscal document and 90 per cent a political one. While the budget for fiscal 2011 presented by Gov. Christie this week remains true to that observation, it will, if enacted, produce a revolutionary transformation in the traditional relationship between state and local government...He has set the stage for an historic shift away from traditional governance by abandoning the practice followed for decades in which state financial resources were used in ever-increasing amounts to rescue local governments which, in many instances, paid lip service to fiscal restraint secure in the knowledge that a bail out awaited in Trenton, regardless of which party held power. Christie's approach repudiates that long and entrenched history, a statement that it was that kind of mindset that led inevitably to the day of reckoning he confronted when he took office.*

HEALTH CARE LEADERS:

New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals (NJCTH) President and CEO, J. Richard Goldstein: *"The New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals (NJCTH) wishes to express appreciation to the Legislature and Governor for working to increase charity care funding I the SFY 2011 Budget."* (New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals, Press Release)

New Jersey Hospital Association VP Post-Acute Care Policy & Special Initiatives, Theresa Edelstein: *"We appreciate the Governor and Legislature's commitment to healthcare providers and the patients they serve. The restorations to adult medical day care and the personal care assistance program are essential to helping keep older adults independent in their communities for as long as possible."* (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

New Jersey Hospital Association President Betsy Ryan: *"In a year when the state is facing daunting budget deficits NJHA appreciates the governor's overall commitment to New Jersey hospitals by increasing overall funding for charity care."* (Mary Jo Layton, "Paterson's St. Joseph's hospital gains under proposed funding," The Record, 6/8/10)

Hospital Alliance of New Jersey President and CEO Suzanne Ianni: *"As the hospitals that serve as the safety net for NJ's uninsured, Hospital Alliance is grateful that in an unbelievably difficult budget year, the Administration worked hard to ensure that limited funding is distributed to the hospitals with the highest charity care burden. By prioritizing access to healthcare in the SFY 2011 Budget, it is clear that Governor Christie gets it."* (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

Saint Clare's Health System President and CEO Les Hirsch: *"In view of the significant challenges of this year's budget we are especially grateful to Governor Christie for his commitment to providing critically needed charity care funding for New Jersey's hospitals, as well as his recognition of the important role of hospitals in providing health care to the uninsured."* (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

Capital Health CEO and President Al Maghazeh: *"I am very pleased that Gov. Christie made it a priority to continue, and in many instances increase, charity care funding for the state's hospitals. At a time when the state is in a dire financial situation and many programs are being reduced or eliminated, it is important to recognize the Governor for ensuring that these critical funds continue. I am also grateful that the Governor has acknowledged Capital Health's role as a safety net hospital and provided the funds to help us continue to care for our uninsured patients."* (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

Director of Advocacy for the State Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Phil Lubiz: *"The governor deserves a great deal of credit for his willingness to re-evaluate the evidence in order to come up with the right decision."* (Veronica Slaght, "Patients, families relieved that Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital will stay open," The Star-Ledger, 6/21/2010)

Vice Chair of Hagedorn's Trustees, Helen LaRue: *Helen LaRue, vice chair of Hagedorn's trustees, spoke for the board. "We're all very happy that the governor has changed his mind. This saves people who weren't going to have any employment, as well as our patients."* (Veronica Slaght, "Patients, families relieved that Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital will stay open," The Star-Ledger, 6/21/2010)

Saint Peter's Healthcare System CEO Ron Rak: *"We are pleased that in these difficult economic times Governor*

Christie has made healthcare a priority." (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

Kennedy Health System President and CEO Martin A. Bieber: "Governor Christie indicated from the beginning of his term that he would continue to fairly compensate the hospitals which provide the largest access to charity care patient services for New Jersey's most needy citizens. I am also pleased to see that the state is undertaking efforts to maximize reimbursement from the federal government. His efforts in both these areas are commendable." (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

St. Joseph's Health Care System President and CEO William McDonald: "St. Joseph's was pleased to see an increase in funding for charity care. It is a long time coming. St. Joseph's has had the largest growth in patient volume from 2008 to 2009. We provided over \$10.2 million in additional charity care and received \$7.4 million in funding. Truly this year, the dollars flow to the organizations which provide the care." (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

Jersey City Medical Center President and CEO Joseph Scott: "Each year Jersey City Medical Center continues our mission of enhancing life by serving the entire community with exceptional care. This year, amid much financial pressure, we are grateful to Governor Chris Christie and Dr. Poonam Alaigh, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, for their strong support of the state's safety net hospitals and the enhanced funding for charity care this year. As one of the state's largest providers of quality medical services to citizens of New Jersey without health insurance, it is vital that the health safety net is funded. Governor Christie and Commissioner Alaigh continued support of the charity care program will help guarantee that these most vulnerable families will be able to receive excellent medical care at Jersey City Medical Center." (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

East Orange General Hospital President and CEO Kevin J. Slavin: "East Orange General Hospital appreciates the Governor's budget proposal to increase charity funding to New Jersey hospitals-especially those that provide the highest level of care to vulnerable populations. Given the tremendous budget constraints that the state faces we are dedicated to working with the Governor and Legislature to preserve access to healthcare for all of the state's residents." (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

Palisades Medical Center President and CEO Bruce J. Markowitz: "We are very appreciative and thankful for the commitment of Governor Christie and Commissioner Alaigh to New Jersey hospitals. Their support to increase charity care funding will enable New Jersey's citizens to continue receiving high quality and comprehensive health care services." (Statement to New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services)

New Jersey Hospital Association Board: "The NJHA Board of Trustees today voiced its support for Gov. Christie's 2011 budget proposal in terms of the expressed prioritization of hospitals; increased funding to charity care; preservation of graduate medical education, Hospital Relief Subsidy and Mental Health Subsidy funds; and maintenance of the Healthcare Stabilization Fund." (New Jersey Hospital Association, Press Release)

Hospital Alliance: Applauds Governor Christie for preserving the healthcare safety net. In a time of unprecedented budget turmoil, the Governor demonstrated strong leadership by making access to healthcare a top priority. Hospital Alliance has long advocated for creative funding solutions to preserve important programs like charity care." (Hospital Alliance, Press Release)

Reuben Rotman, Executive Director of the Jewish Family Service of MetroWest: "Praised the governor for maintaining some safety net services which I think are critical." (Robert Wiener, "Christie budget spares some safety net items." NJJN, 3.17.10)

Alex Hatala, CEO of Catholic Health East NJ: "Catholic Health East NJ hospitals, like hospitals across our state, treat all patients who come through their doors, regardless of their ability to pay. Collectively, N.J. hospitals provide nearly \$1.4 billion in charity care services to New Jerseyans without health insurance. We applaud Gov. Christie for recognizing this essential program in his 2011 budget proposal and dedicating increased funding to provide healthcare services to those who have lost their health insurance. It's critically important to those patients in need, but also to residents across our state who count on a viable network of hospitals to provide the services they and their families depend on. We know there is much work ahead to address the state's financial challenges as well as our healthcare needs, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Christie Administration and our legislators to tackle those issues together." (Statement from CEO of Catholic Health East NJ Alex Hatala)

New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals: "NJCTH is pleased that Governor Christie's proposed 2011 budget recognizes that chronic state government underfunding has been one of the root causes contributing to the hospital industry's extreme financial distress for many years. We applaud his decision to infuse \$60M of new money for charity care, particularly in the face of cuts to so many other important services in order to balance an unprecedented budget shortfall. Teaching hospitals in particular deliver the majority of charity care and maintaining state-subsidized services to the working class uninsured is vital to the well-being of our state, now more than ever." (New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals, Press Release)

John Sheridan, Cooper University Hospital in Camden Chief Executive Officer: Praised Christie's efforts to increase state aid to hospitals and maintain level funding for those that provide residencies to doctors in training. "This is a very good effort on the part of the governor to try to come up with the funds to address some serious financial problems." (Chelsea Conaboy, "Hospitals will get more, and also give more." (Chelsea Conaboy, "Hospitals will get more, and also give more," Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/22/10)

Alan Zuckerman, President of the Consulting Firm Health Strategies & Solutions in Philadelphia: *"New Jersey hospitals "should thank their lucky stars" for the budget Christie proposed. They could have been hit with major cuts in aid. And with most hospitals dealing with negligible or negative operating margins, he said, the fallout would have been severe."* (Chelsea Conaboy, "Hospitals will get more, and also give more," Philadelphia Inquirer, 3.22.10)

COMMUNITY LEADERS:

Rev. Reginald T. Jackson, Executive Director, Black Ministers' Council of New Jersey: *"The Black Ministers Council of New Jersey is pleased that Gov. Chris Christie and the leaders of the New Jersey State legislature, particularly Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver have reached agreement on the state budget. Especially are we pleased with agreement on funding for New Jersey Stars, After Three and Urban Enterprise Zone. This funding will help college students, provide for needed programs after school and for our struggling urban centers. Agreement in these areas is good for New Jersey."* (The Black Ministers Council of New Jersey, Press Release, 6/23/10)

Head of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders, Reverend Miguel Rivera: *"The New Jersey Latino Christian Clergy Conference (CONLAMIC-NJ) congratulates Governor Christie for his commitment to the best financial interests of the State of New Jersey and for demonstrating his commitment to preserving New Jersey's cultural and community resources in the midst of an unprecedented budget crisis by dedicating \$1.4 million worth of savings in the final fiscal year 2011 budget to continue the operations of the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development (CHPRD)."* (New Jersey Latino Christian Clergy Conference, Press Release, 6/22/10)

Executive Director of the Paramus-Based Hispanic Institute for Research And Development Emilio Fandino: *"I'm grateful to the governor and to those legislators who took note of the issue that although New Jersey is in dire financial straits, there are still people who need help," said Emilio Fandino, executive director of the Paramus-based Hispanic Institute for Research and Development, a non-profit group that receives some aid from the state.* (Elizabeth Llorente, "Hispanic agency survives but loses two-thirds of funds," The Record, 6/22/2010)

BUSINESS LEADERS:

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Chairman Dennis Bone: Governor Christie made tough choices and presented a budget containing proposals requiring immediate sacrifice for most New Jerseyans," said New Jersey Chamber Chairman Dennis Bone, President, Verizon New Jersey. "We recognize that he had few options considering our enormous deficit. The Administration should be applauded for tackling long-term systemic issues that, if addressed, will lead to job creation, economic growth and fiscal stability for the state. Unfortunately, fixing New Jersey's finances is a marathon and not a sprint." (NJ Chamber of Commerce, Budget Proposal: Governor Chris Christie Takes Important First Step to Fix State's Fiscal Mess, Press Release, 3/16/2010)

Morris County Chamber of Commerce President Paul Boudreau: *"It's a fantastic day," said Paul A. Boudreau, president of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce. "Because finally we have a governor who has a plan to keep the jobs we have and to try to grow jobs in the future."* (Hugh Morley, "Business leaders rally around Christie," The Record, 3/16/2010)

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey Kathleen Davis: *The governor also urged both parties to pass a constitutional amendment that would prevent the trust fund from being used for anything but jobless claims in the future. "We are open to any plan that would mitigate this increase. Billions were raided from the fund over the years because nobody wanted to believe there would come a time that our economy would be in such dire straits that we would need to support an 10 percent unemployment rate," said Kathleen Davis, vice president and chief operating officer of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey.* (Eileen Stilwell, "Business leaders' reaction mixed," Courier-Post, 3/17/2010)

New Jersey Business and Industry Association President Philip Kirschner: *Said the governor wants to end a perpetual cycle that has put the state in debt. "What the governor is saying is it's time for government to make the same tough decisions that business owners have made."* (Andrew Kitchenman, "Christie unveils budget that would cut state aid, vows veto of tax hikes," NJBIZ, 3/16/2010)

State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business/New Jersey Laurie Ehlbeck: *Christie's proposed cuts will be difficult but doable, said Laurie Ehlbeck, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business/New Jersey. "Small businesses throughout New Jersey have dealt with much worse in weathering this recession. And if our smallest employers can find ways to cut back and find savings to keep their doors open, so can state and local government."* (Andrew Kitchenman, "Christie unveils budget that would cut state aid, vows veto of tax

hikes," NJBIZ, 3/16/2010)

Chief Executive Officer of Withum Smith & Brown PC, a Princeton-based CPA firm, Bill Hagaman: *Rampant tax increases, like last year's one-year hike that boosted the top personal bracket to 10.75 percent on taxable income of more than \$1 million, "helped to fuel the perception that New Jersey is hostile towards businesses," said Bill Hagaman, chief executive officer of Withum Smith & Brown PC, a Princeton-based CPA firm. "We see companies moving out, including one client that fled to Florida to escape New Jersey's taxes and took 30 jobs with him. It may not sound like many jobs, but the numbers run up fast when it's one company after another." If Christie follows through on his vow to veto any proposed hikes, "it would help put a dent in the state's negative image."* (Andrew Kitchenman, "Christie unveils budget that would cut state aid, vows veto of tax hikes," NJBIZ, 3/16/2010)

Director of Economic Research at the Roseland-based CPA firm J.H. Cohn, Patrick O'Keefe: *Christie also is allowing the 4 percent corporate income tax surcharge to end June 30, a move applauded by Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at the Roseland-based CPA firm J.H. Cohn. "It may not sound like much of a tax, but the 4 percent is on top of an already high level of tax, so it is significant," he said. "Also, New Jersey is competing with other locations around the country and the globe that want to attract business. One more tax is simply another straw on the camel's back, and in our case the camel's already sprawled out on the ground and can't get up because of the weight."* (Andrew Kitchenman, "Christie unveils budget that would cut state aid, vows veto of tax hikes," NJBIZ, 3/16/2010)

Millville Economic Director Don Ayres: *"We're very appreciative the \$48 million is put back in the budget. We'll go from there, but \$48 million is better than nothing."* (Kristi Funderburk, "UEZ funds could save area projects," Vineland Daily Journal, 6/23/10)

President of Paramus-based Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey John Galandak: *"...called it a "good budget," saying that the spending cuts were as important to businesses as the measures that directly affected business. "It's a watershed moment," he said. "The best thing is there is finally a realization that a reduction in state spending is necessary to make our business climate more affordable."* (Hugh R. Morley, "Budget bill backed by business leaders," The Record, 6/28/10)

NJ Small Business Development Centers Deborah Smarth: *"We are very happy that we have received this positive news," she said, adding that the state funding will now help get federal matching funds.* (Hugh R. Morley, "Budget bill backed by business leaders," The Record, 6/28/10)

EDUCATORS:

New Jersey Council of Community Colleges Chairman, Ronald Winthers: *"We are grateful to Governor Chris Christie and the bipartisan legislative leadership for restoring this important program for New Jersey's community college students. NJ STARS is a terrific incentive for high school students to excel academically, stay in state to attend college, and ultimately become productive members of the workforce here in New Jersey."* (New Jersey Council of Community Colleges, Press Release, 6/22/10)

NJ After 3 President, Mark Valli: *Said state funding will reinforce its message about the vital importance of after-school programs in urban areas as it seeks other funders. "They're just not giving us money and saying, have fun. They're saying, 'Your programs work, they're high quality.' The string attached is that we want you to go out and leverage the funding to raise more resources."* (Meir Rinde, "Mercer County's winners, losers in New Jersey budget battles," Trenton Times, 6/23/10)

Executive Director of E3, Derrell Bradford: *"Protecting school choice in higher education by restoring these funds was a great thing; clearly student-focused and student empowering," said Derrell Bradford, Executive Director of E3. "We hope the legislature, in its future negotiations with Governor Christie, continues to make decisions that allows students to pursue their educations in the places they deem most appropriate."* (E3 Congratulates Governor Chrisite, Senate and Assembly Leaders, on Budget Compromise, Press Release, 6/23/10)

President of Bergen Community College G. Jeremiah Ryan: *"The Legislature and Governor Christie are making the right choice in appropriating \$1 million to preserve the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship program, which provides full-tuition scholarships to community colleges for New Jersey high school seniors in the top 15 percent of their classes...Christie has said New Jersey leads the nation in net out-migration of students, and he lists "keeping New Jersey students in New Jersey" as the first element of his plan for improving higher education.* (G. Jeremiah Ryan, "Preserving NJ STARS: The right choice," The Record, 6/27/2010)

All Stars Project, Inc. Director, Gloria B. Strickland: *"I was very glad to hear about the restoration of funds for the NJ After 3 program. I take this to be a sign that you and your administration understand the critical importance of providing high quality after-school programs for New Jersey's young people."* (All Stars Project, Press Release, 6/22/2010)

New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities CEO, Dr. Darryl G. Greer: *"While state colleges will continue to manage extremely challenging cuts in state operating support next year, it is positive that several of the Association's budget and policy priorities are reflected in the version of the budget bill that appears to be poised for approval by the New Jersey Legislature and Governor prior to June 30. The merger of Thomas Edison State College with Rutgers University, part of proposed Capital Campus Initiative, was cancelled. We are pleased that the governor and legislative leaders have had a chance to rethink the proposal, preserving the autonomy of a highly regarded, unique institution geared exclusively to adult learners. We are also pleased that the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program is among the partially restored student aid program cuts."* (New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, Press Release)

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