

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Signs Legislation Changing Mental Health Insurance Benefits Teaches Fourth Grade History Class

Governor Christie Whitman will tomorrow sign legislation that will require health insurers in New Jersey to extend mental health benefits under the same conditions that apply to other illnesses and diseases.

S-86 will require hospitals, medical and health service corporations, commercial individual and group health insurers, health maintenance organizations and health benefits plans issued pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits Programs to provide health benefits coverage for the treatment of biologically based mental illness under the same terms and conditions as provided for any other sickness.

The Governor will also teach a history lesson to a fourth grade class at the Gould School in North Caldwell and will attend the funeral service being held for State Senator Wynona Lipman.