

## Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

### NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
Winnie Comfort  
609-777-2600

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#### **Statement by Gov. Christie Whitman on Los Angeles Shooting Tragedy**

"The terrible tragedy of the recent shooting of innocent children and their caretakers in Los Angeles reminds all of us that we must be ever vigilant in taking steps to protect our kids, even in settings that we believe to be safe and secure.

"We must pray for the victims and their families and friends, that they have a speedy recovery from their injuries and that they find peace of mind after such a senseless act shattered their lives.

"We also offer our prayers and support to the entire Jewish community, not only for this reprehensible crime committed upon the children in California, but also for the horror of learning that this act seems to have been one motivated by hate.

"In New Jersey, we are one family with many faces, working together to erase the ignorance that could breed such lethal prejudice. Such acts of hatred cannot be tolerated. We have one of the strongest bias crime laws in the nation. We have used it to prosecute hate-mongers in the past and we will continue to enforce it to the fullest extent."