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What They Are Saying ... Governor Christie's FY 2013 Budget "Rightly Addresses" the Needs of All New Jerseyans Across the Board

Friday, February 24, 2012

10% Tax Cut & Earned Income Tax Cut

New Jersey Chamber President and CEO Thomas Bracken:

"With today's budget address, Gov. Christie continues to make good on his commitments to improve New Jersey's business environment. Spending is being brought under control. Taxes are being reduced." (N.J. Chamber President and CEO Thomas Bracken's statement on Gov. Chris Christie's Budget Address, Press Release, 2/21/12)

- "The governor's call for a 10 percent across-the-board income tax cut is a great step toward making the state more competitive - especially when our neighboring states are moving in the opposite direction. (N.J. Chamber President and CEO Thomas Bracken's statement on Gov. Chris Christie's Budget Address, Press Release, 2/21/12)
- "The comeback has begun." We need to help accelerate it! (N.J. Chamber President and CEO Thomas Bracken's statement on Gov. Chris Christie's Budget Address, Press Release, 2/21/12)

Chamber Of Commerce Southern New Jersey:

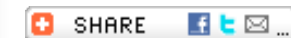
"The Governor's proposal to cut income taxes across the board by ten percent builds upon his efforts, in partnership with legislative leaders like Senate President Sweeney, to make New Jersey more competitive and business friendly and create jobs. ... The Governor clearly understands that a vast majority of businesses pay their taxes through the income tax; consequently, the income tax is a business tax." (Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey, Press Release, 2/21/12)

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- We fully support the Governor’s proposed income tax reduction.” (Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey, Press Release, 2/21/12)

Commerce And Industry Association of New Jersey President John Galandak:

“Applauds Gov. Chris Christie’s continued effort to restore fiscal discipline to state government in New Jersey. For the third year in a row Gov. Christie presented a budget plan that will allow state government to fund its priorities without raising taxes and pledged to veto any tax increase that was presented to him.

- “In fact because of the tough bipartisan decisions made over the last two years which have redirected New Jersey’s fiscal policies, our state is now in a position to implement a 10 percent across the board reduction in personal income taxes. The business community has long asked for predictability and certainty from state government. This budget message continues to deliver both.” (Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey, Press Release, 2/21/12)
- “CIANJ is certain that the creation of private sector jobs will accelerate as a result...” (Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey, Press Release, 2/21/12)

New Jersey Business and Industry First Vice President Association David Brogan:

“The cut will have a dollar-for-dollar impact for the small businesses, but we’re also changing the perception for New Jersey and I think that’s a big hurdle.” (Kevin McArdle, “Chris Christie’s Tax Cut A Boon For Small Biz, Experts Say [AUDIO],” NJ 101.5, 2/23/12)

- “We think it’s a very positive thing. If you’re an LLC, LLP, sole proprietorship, you’re not filing under the corporate business tax. You’re filing under your gross income tax so this is a direct benefit to those businesses, those smaller businesses.” (Kevin McArdle, “Chris Christie’s Tax Cut A Boon For Small Biz, Experts Say [AUDIO],” NJ 101.5, 2/23/12)

AARP NJ Senior State Director Jim Dieterle:

“AARP does praise Governor Christie’s proposal to restore of the Earned Income Tax Credit which will provide relief to the state’s working poor...” (AARP, Press Release, 2/21/12)

National Federation of Independent Business State Director Laurie Ehlbeck:

“This is a major priority for small businesses in New Jersey because they pay the highest income in the region.” (National Federation of Independent Business, Press Release, 1/17/12)

- “The Governor clearly understands that the personal income tax is really a small business tax, and that it has to be lower if we’re going to be competitive. ... We’re not built for competition with a tax rate that is higher than anywhere in America.” (National Federation of Independent Business, Press Release, 1/17/12)
- “This is a great signal to the business community that New Jersey values hard work and that its leaders want people to keep more of the money they earn.” (National Federation of Independent Business, Press Release, 1/17/12)
- “This is going to stimulate the economy, and it’s going to generate a lot of interest in New Jersey as a place to do

business ... Nothing will stimulate the economy more than letting everyone who earns a paycheck to keep more of their own money.” (National Federation of Independent Business, Press Release, 1/17/12)

Meadowlands Regional Chamber Of Commerce Chief Executive Jim Kirko:

“For businesses, it’s all about momentum, and continuity and consistency of message ... The idea of building on the momentum already established with a tax cut is proof of the continued commitment.” (John Reitmeyer & Hugh Morley, “Christie Proposes Income Tax Cuts In State Of The State,” The Record, 1/28/12)

Higher Education

Rutgers University of New Jersey President Richard L. McCormick:

“The increases in student aid contained in Governor Christie’s budget proposal are among the highest increases in the budget and are an indication of the governor’s commitment to keeping college affordable for New Jersey’s students.” (Statement, 2/22/12)

New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities CEO Michael Klein:

“This proposal has many positive elements that will help protect college affordability, access and quality in New Jersey at a time when many states are forced to consider major cuts...” (Jeanette Rundquist and Nic Corbett, “Gov. Christie’s proposal would add more than \$300M to N.J. education budget,” The Star-Ledger, 2/22/12)

- ““We appreciate the proposed increases in support for state colleges and universities – and that the level of support provided appears to include both operations and fringe benefits funding ...Funding of state aid programs for students with the greatest financial need is significantly increased ... This will keep New Jersey among the top states in providing grants to students with limited means.”” (John Mooney, “Higher Ed Would Pick Up Six Percent Under Planned 2013 Budget,” NJ Spotlight, 2/23/12)

Richard Stockton College President Herman J. Saatkamp Jr.:

““I believe we are at the point where the governor and Legislature are recognizing the importance of higher education ... What helps the most is the increased support for students (through the Tuition Aid Grant, or TAG, and NJSTARS scholarship programs).” (Diane D’Amico, “Public colleges welcome first state aid increase in years in Gov. Chris Christie’s budget proposal,” Press of Atlantic City, 2/21/12)

- “The budget also proposes an increase of over 28 million dollars more than last year for student financial assistance. Most of that is a 10% increase in funding for tuition and grants, guaranteed money for students. “That is absolutely essential, one of the powerful features the Governor addressed. That money is going directly to students and it’s assistance to students that are grants, not loans...” (Rick Ritter, “Stockton College On Board With Governor Christies Proposed Budget,” NBC 40 Atlantic City, 2/23/121)
- “I like what the Governor had to say, I like the response from legislators, and I think people are now beginning to see that Stockton College and higher education in New Jersey is absolutely essential for the New Jersey comeback...” (Rick Ritter, “Stockton College On Board With Governor Christies Proposed Budget,” NBC 40 Atlantic City,

2/23/121)

Rowan's Interim President Ali Houshmand:

"We are very pleased with the passion and enthusiasm (Christie) showed when he talked about higher education and education as a whole.' ... He said the college has committed to keeping tuition increases to no more than the annual rise in the cost of living. The increased aid will help them keep that promise." (Diane D'Amico, "Public colleges welcome first state aid increase in years in Gov. Chris Christie's budget proposal," Press of Atlantic City, 2/21/12)

Atlantic Cape Community College President Peter Mora:

"Atlantic Cape Community College President Peter Mora said the college is encouraged by the increased aid and especially the aid to students. "The higher level of TAG funding will ensure access for our neediest students, and the preserved funding for NJSTARS will maintain that valuable scholarship program for our top high school graduates," he said." (Diane D'Amico, "Public colleges welcome first state aid increase in years in Gov. Chris Christie's budget proposal," Press of Atlantic City, 2/21/12)

Sussex County Community College President Paul Mazur:

"We're encouraged that Gov. Christie recognizes higher education as a priority. We are waiting on more details, but at this time we understand the governor's plan calls for state operating aid to all public colleges, including community colleges, to remain level and that there will be increased funding to the TAG program for students..." (Steven Reilly, "County's GOP lawmakers back Christie spending plan," NJ Herald, 2/22/12)

Maplewood Mayor Vic DeLuca:

"The 6% increase in higher ed support will help middle and working class students." (Mary Mann, "Local Reaction to Guv's Budget Speech," Maplewood Patch, 2/21/12)

New Jersey Hospitals

New Jersey Hospital Association President and CEO Betsy Ryan:

"Once again, Gov. Christie has recognized healthcare's vital contributions to our state by making hospital and healthcare funding a priority in his 2013 budget proposal. We applaud the Governor for putting patients first and dedicating much-needed funding for quality and accessible healthcare for all." (Statement of Betsy Ryan President and CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association, 2/21/2012)

New Jersey Hospital Alliance President & CEO Suzanne Ianni:

"Hospital Alliance thanks Governor Christie for continuing to prioritize access to healthcare for all New Jerseyans. The proposed SFY 2013 Budget maintains significant support to hospitals through the charity care, Hospital Relief Subsidy, Graduate Medical Education and Stabilization Funds and continues the principles of transparency, predictability and equity. (Hospital Alliance Thanks Governor Christie For Continued Commitment To Hospitals, Healthcare, Press Release, 2/21/12)

Department of Health

AARP NJ Senior State Director Jim Dieterle:

“...spoke highly of Gov. Christie's proposal to reorganize state government. Dieterle supports the move to transition the majority of senior services from the Department of Health and Senior Services to the Department of Human Services.” (AARP, Press Release, 2/21/12)

- “AARP noted that the Christie Administration increased the Global Options funding for home and community-based long-term care services last year by an unprecedented 43%. "This year he is building on that excellent foundation," said Dieterle.” (AARP, Press Release, 2/21/12)
- AARP Associate State Director for Advocacy Evelyn Liebman: "This proposed reorganization marks a milestone in the evolution of the rebalancing of NJ's system of long-term services...Consolidating these programs will create a more effective organization to give people what they want – more home and community-based options. People want affordable services that will allow them to thrive in their homes and communities." (AARP, Press Release, 2/21/12)

New Jersey Hospital Alliance President & CEO Suzanne Ianni:

Hospital Alliance also commends the Christie Administration for streamlining hospital issues under one department – as the oversight of both the Hospital Relief Subsidy Fund and Graduate Medical Education Fund will fall under the newly named Department of Health.” (Hospital Alliance Thanks Governor Christie For Continued Commitment To Hospitals, Healthcare, Press Release, 2/21/12)

New Jersey Business And Industry Association Vice President of Health and Legal Affairs Christine Stearns:

“The Governor's Plan makes good sense. It puts all senior services under one roof so they are easy to access and the focus is on keeping seniors in their homes, exactly where most seniors want to stay.” (Beth Fitzgerald, “Reorganization, Restructuring, and Reallocation: Christie's Proposed Health Budget,” NJ Spotlight, 2/22/12)

The Division of Child Integrated Systems of Care Services

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies CEO Debra L. Wentz:

“...said having a single place for support and treatment services would be a tremendous benefit for children with developmental disabilities and their families.” (Dino Flammia, “Gov Christie Plans Better Help for Children With Developmental Disabilities,” NJ 101.5, 2/23/12)

Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities Executive Director Daniel J. Keating:

““The fact that the governor made a commitment to provide services in the community is a big step ... He also praised the move to consolidate children's services. "It will allow fragmented services to be consolidated and provide families with essential help.” (Harvy Lipman, “Christie restructures services for disabled kids,” The Record, 2/22/12)

Disability Rights Executive Director Joseph Young:

“This is definitely headed in the right direction Especially when you consider that a number of other states are cutting back services.” (Harvy Lipman, “Christie restructures services for disabled kids,” The Record, 2/22/12)

Arc of Bergen And Passaic President Kathy Walsh:

“...praised the idea of unifying children's services and the increased funding for new community programs.” (Harvy Lipman, “Christie restructures services for disabled kids,” The Record, 2/22/12)

Division of Aging

AARP Associate State Director for Advocacy Ev Liebman:

“Christie's plan to consolidate services to seniors in a new Division of Aging was called "welcome news"... She said the proposed reorganization, "will eliminate the currently fractured Medicaid program and hopefully create a more effective organization to give people what they want: more home- and community-based options. People want affordable services that will allow them to thrive in their homes and communities.” (Beth Fitzgerald, “Reorganization, Restructuring, and Reallocation: Christie's Proposed Health Budget,” NJ Spotlight, 2/22/12)

Editorials

The Bergen Record Editorial:

“There is much to admire in this budget. ... The state's needs are many, and the governor is right to address them.” (Editorial, “Happy days,” The Record, 2/22/12)

The Courier-Post Editorial:

“We're glad this governor continues to say “no” to the old strategies of piling on fee and tax increases to pump up state spending by huge amounts each year. That strategy did far more to hurt our state than help it.” (Editorial, “No word on paying for tax reduction,” Courier-Post, 2/21/12)

The Gloucester County Times Editorial:

“Self-styled miracle worker that he is, Christie has sweetened the pot with his 10 percent across-the-board state income tax cut over three years. ... give Christie some credit. He didn't slash school aid, as some legislative Democrats had feared. Higher education aid? Also up. The budget also includes new programs, like innovative drug courts for all 21 counties. And, he admirably plans to make a pension payment of \$1.07 billion, denting the huge shortfall. ... Any income tax cut ought to help the middle class more.” (Editorial, “If revenue is real, N.J. budget's not bad,” Gloucester County Times, 2/22/12)

The Express-Times Editorial:

“His proposal to convert the Sen. Garrett W. Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital in Lebanon Township to a facility to treat homeless and substance-abusing veterans is a great idea, in terms of reaching out to a vulnerable segment of people who have served their country. ... the governor deserves credit for examining and reorganizing social services as part of

his budget vision.” (Editorial, “Hagedorn closing still hurts, despite good re-use of hospital,” Express-Times, 2/23/12)

K-12 Education

Garden State Coalition of Schools Executive Director Lynne Strickland:

“...initial reaction overall is that the aid increases to our members are meaningful and demonstrate a much-needed nod from the state for its support of quality education in the suburbs. GSCS is relieved to see a change on the plus side, one that is positive and promising of a future trend.” (Garden State Coalition re State Aid Figures - GSCS Statement, 2/23/12)

- “There’s recognition that this has been a long time coming, and we’re glad for it Suburbs have been left to free fall ... we need the help, too.” (Jason Method, “Suburban schools to gain aid,” Home News Tribune, 2/23/12)

New Jersey School Boards Association Executive Director Marie S. Bilik:

“NJSBA appreciates Governor Christie’s proposed school funding increase.” (NJSBA Comments on Governor’s Budget Recommendation, 2/21/12)

Millville Mayor Tim Shannon:

“...said he was pleased with the \$4.2 million the city, which has struggled with deindustrialization, stands to receive. ... “I’m pleased that we’re getting the money.” (Derek Harper, “Municipal aid to stay flat in most New Jersey towns,” Press of Atlantic City, 2/24/12)

Red Bank Chief Financial Officer Colleen Lapp:

“For Red Bank, the news that state aid was unchanged from the slightly more than \$2 million received in 2011 was good news to Colleen Lapp, chief financial officer. ... “It’s the best you can hope for in this economy.” (Jason Method, “Suburban schools to gain aid,” Home News Tribune, 2/23/12)

Lakewood Municipal Manager Michael Muscillo:

“...said he was relieved the state aid numbers were the same as last year.” (Jason Method, “Suburban schools to gain aid,” Home News Tribune, 2/23/12)

- Lakewood Township Committeeman Albert Akerman: “We can work with the current aid numbers and township employees should not have to be concerned about pay freezes or layoffs...” (Jason Method, “Suburban schools to gain aid,” Home News Tribune, 2/23/12)

Local Government Leaders

League Of Municipalities Executive Director William G. Dressel, Jr.:

“We commend Governor Christie and Legislative Leaders for their leadership in advancing efforts to bring discipline to State spending and in considering common sense solutions to local cost drivers. It will take courage and discipline to

now wean the State off of these local revenues.” (League Of Municipalities Reaction To Governor’s Budget Proposal, Press Release, 2/21/12)

The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) President Rick Gardner:

“The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) commends Governor Chris Christie for proposing a fiscally responsible budget that makes an unprecedented \$1.1 billion dollar payment to the State’s notoriously underfunded pension system; and, facilitates economic development with the phase in of \$350 million dollars in significant business tax credits.” (The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) President Rick Gardner Statement, 2/22/12)

Camden Mayor Dana Redd:

“...had a positive appraisal of the governor’s speech, saying Christie was “balancing the needs” of the overall population and the most vulnerable.” (Matt Katz, “Christie proposes \$32.1 billion N.J. budget with slight increases in spending,” Inquirer, 2/22/12)

New Jersey’s Parks

NJ Keep It Green Chair Tom Gilbert:

“We applaud Governor Christie and DEP Commissioner Martin for the wise investments they are making in New Jersey’s parks, as well as the preservation of threatened lands and waters through the Green Acres Program.” (NJ Keep It Green Coalition Applauds Governor’s Investment In State Parks, Press Release, 2/21/12)

- NJ Keep It Green Coordinator Kelly Mooij: “We appreciate the Governor’s continued commitment to keep our parks open and accessible to the public ... The budget represents a good step in the right direction to increase funding to operate and maintain our parks, as well as to make much-needed improvements so that the public can enjoy the many natural, historic and recreational amenities that our parks have to offer.” (NJ Keep It Green Coalition Applauds Governor’s Investment In State Parks, Press Release, 2/21/12)

Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital

State Sen. Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex):

“...at first blush, he supports the proposals. “I think it sounds like the right thing to do... Vitale said the money that Christie plans to spend on community-based initiatives, “are not all that the community needs, but it’s certainly a step in the right direction, given our limited resources.” (Beth Fitzgerald, “Reorganization, Restructuring, and Reallocation: Christie’s Proposed Health Budget,” NJ Spotlight, 2/22/12)

Hunterdon County Freeholder Director Rob Walton:

“...said he was “ecstatic” when a governor’s representative told freeholders of the plan Tuesday morning. “With the aging of our veterans and the needs of those returning home, these services will be more in demand ...It is also important for us here in Hunterdon for our local economy, and to ensure the buildings and grounds stay maintained.” (“Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital pitch from Gov. Chris Christie a ‘noble use,’ lawmaker says,” Express-Times, 2/22/12)

American Legion Past State Commander Bob Looby:

“For the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor to expand our homeless veterans program, God Bless you...” (Susan Livio, “In budget address, Christie outlines future of Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital,” Star Ledger, 2/22/12)

Infrastructure

New Jersey Alliance for Action President Philip Beachem:

“The New Jersey Alliance for Action is pleased to see the Governor’s proposed budget includes increased investments for important infrastructure investments in areas such as transportation and higher education construction. These increases will help put New Jerseyans back to work on critically important projects and help improve the State’s economic health.” (Statement, 2/22/12)

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