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<a href="#">Press Releases</a>	<a href="#">Public Addresses</a>	<a href="#">Executive Orders</a>	<a href="#">Press Kit</a>	<a href="#">Reports</a>	

[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2012

## Statement From Governor Chris Christie Regarding Conditional Veto of S1

Friday, February 17, 2012 • Tags: [Statements](#)

**Trenton, NJ** – Please see below Governor Chris Christie’s statement regarding the Conditional Veto of S1. A copy of the Conditional Veto of S1 is attached.

“Today, I am adhering to what I’ve said since this bill was first introduced – an issue of this magnitude and importance, which requires a constitutional amendment, should be left to the people of New Jersey to decide. I continue to encourage the Legislature to trust the people of New Jersey and seek their input by allowing our citizens to vote on a question that represents a profoundly significant societal change. This is the only path to amend our State Constitution and the best way to resolve the issue of same-sex marriage in our state.

“I have been just as adamant that same-sex couples in a civil union deserve the very same rights and benefits enjoyed by married couples – as well as the strict enforcement of those rights and benefits. Discrimination should not be tolerated and any complaint alleging a violation of a citizen’s right should be investigated and, if appropriate, remedied. To that end, I include in my conditional veto the creation of a strong Ombudsman for Civil Unions to carry on New Jersey’s strong tradition of tolerance and fairness. The Ombudsman will be charged with increasing awareness of the law regarding civil unions, will provide a clear point of contact for those who have questions or concerns and will be required to report any evidence of the law being violated. In this way, we can ensure equal treatment under the law.”

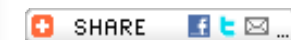
[Governor Christie Conditionally Vetoes Senate Bill 1](#)

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