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Gov. Christie: We Can Be An Inspiration And A Model For Other States

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjDw3ugY--c&feature=youtu.be>

Transcript:

Governor Christie: It's undeniable that we've made a lot of progress in New Jersey over the last six years. There are things we've achieved that can be an inspiration and a model for reformers in other states and at the national level. So let's keep working forward together. There will always be naysayers, the talking heads in the media, the unabashed partisans who think that only liberal Democrats achieve anything worthy of praise. I've ignored those folks my whole career and I will continue to do so. They, by the way, are the same folks who I said I shouldn't be U.S. Attorney. The same ones who opposed me for Governor in 2009. The same ones who called me a one-termer. Well, I guess their record speaks for itself. This is our path forward from here. The state of New Jersey is strong. If we work together, we can make it even stronger. We can also make it smarter, we can make it more efficient, we can make it more resourceful - and as I've talked about today- we can make it even more compassionate. And if we are not careful, we can also make it weaker if we give in to selfish special interests. I will say no and I will pray that you will join me in saying no. I have spent the last thirteen years of my life as US Attorney and governor of the state of New Jersey fighting for fairness and justice and opportunity for the people of this state. Every day I wake up and I think about how to make New Jersey better, and how to make our country better. I feel so privileged to have served these last 13

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years. I thank the people of New Jersey for the chances they have given me. I do believe our best days lie ahead. But if we want to win the future, then we need to face it boldly. We can't shirk from the difficult decisions and the hard conversations we need to have. We can't choose to pursue only the easy reforms or the ones that the media or the special interests might like. Government service is an enormous privilege and a special opportunity. Look around us. Just take a minute. Look around you, you're here all the time. But look, look at the incredible, wonderful hall that you're in. This place should inspire acts of sacrifice and greatness, not pettiness and self-service. We can do better by remembering who gave us these jobs - it's not the campaign contributors, it's not the folks who occupy the palaces on State Street - - the people who gave us these jobs are the everyday heroes of New Jersey life. They work, they struggle to make their lives better over the hurdles that life places before them. Let's not have those that serve in these chambers and what we do be another hurdle in their lives. Let us, let us be the powerful who clear the hurdles for them that they cannot clear by themselves. We can do that by putting ourselves in their shoes; not by putting ourselves deeper in their pockets and deeper in meddling in their lives. We must try and make things better for all, not just for the moneyed few who roam these halls as if they own them. Believe me, look at what they ask for and the way they act. They think they've bought them. They're wrong - but only if we make it so. Because all of us have been blessed with the strength and the resources and the wisdom to do the right thing. Let's try. Let's try. Let's work hard. Let's do better than you did yesterday. Let's say what needs to be said. Let's make New Jersey a better place to live, for all our people.

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