

## Office of the Governor

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Accepts Commissioner Waldman's Resignation**

Gov. Christie Whitman today accepted the resignation of Human Services Commissioner William Waldman. Waldman's resignation becomes effective on July 1, 1998 when he will become the Executive Director of the American Public Welfare Association. The Washington-based association includes among its members health and human services agencies from the 50 states, as well as territorial, county and municipal agencies. The non-profit, bi- partisan association provides legislative and technical assistance and training to its members in the areas of welfare, Medicaid, mental health and human services policy.

"Bill Waldman has been a superstar in my administration. He has been a valued member of our team from the very first days of my administration and he will be missed on both a personal and professional level," the Governor said.

"Under Commissioner Waldman's leadership we were able to reform welfare and reduce the welfare rolls by one-third. Together, we oversaw the development of a managed care system for Medicaid recipients that both controls costs and improves the quality of health care to the 365,000 participants in the program. Finally, as a team, we have changed the way the state deals with people with disabilities by providing them greater mainstream living opportunities," Whitman said.

"New Jersey's loss is Washington's gain," the Governor said. "I can think of no one more qualified to lead a nationwide professional organization dedicated to improving the delivery of social services than Bill Waldman," she said.

Waldman, 54, has served as the Commissioner of Human Services under two governors. Human Services is the largest public agency in New Jersey with a \$6 billion budget and nearly 20,000 employees.

Beginning his career as a welfare caseworker in Newark, Waldman has served in human services in New Jersey for more than 30 years. Waldman was named Commissioner of the Department of Human Services in 1992. Prior to being named Commissioner, Waldman served as Acting Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Director of the Division of Youth and Family Services. He joined state government in 1987 after 12 years as Middlesex County Human Services director.

Waldman holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from Rutgers, the State University and a Bachelor's Degree from Pennsylvania State University. He lives in Piscataway.