

## **Follow The Record, Not The Rhetoric**

### *Governor Chris Christie To Deliver 7<sup>th</sup> State of the State Address*

**HE PROMISED AND DELIVERED** – Tomorrow, Governor Christie will deliver his seventh State of the State Address since taking office in 2010. The Governor will share a record of key reforms and set the tone for his final year in office.

Let's take a look at how Governor Christie and his administration have delivered beyond the promises set forth in his 2016 State of the State Address:

**PROMISED: Mid-State Correctional Facility** - Seeking to fundamentally change how New Jersey treats addiction behind prison walls – making those efforts smarter, more accessible and more effectively integrated with reentry efforts to help people stay clean. Governor Christie directed the Department of Corrections and the Department of Human Services to implement the first-ever dedicated, licensed substance use disorder treatment program at Mid-State Correctional Facility, which will be dedicated to treating addicts behind prison walls.

✓ **DELIVERED:** The facility is under active construction and will open this spring.

**PROMISED: Recovery Coach Program** - Seeking to expand the available support for overdose victims first announced following the “Facing Addiction Task Force,” in his 2016 State of the State Address Governor Christie announced **\$1.7 million** in funding to expand the Recovery Coach Program.

✓ **DELIVERED:** Already demonstrating success in Camden, Essex, Monmouth, Ocean and Passaic counties the program expanded to Atlantic, Bergen, Hudson, Gloucester and Middlesex counties. A grant will be awarded for an 11th program in early 2017.

**PROMISED: Bolstering Mental Health And Addiction Rates By More Than \$100 Million** - The Governor made a historic financial pledge to raise reimbursement rates and increase access to more affordable substance use and mental health treatment.

✓ **DELIVERED:** A combined State and federal investment of more than \$127 million under this year's budget will increase mental health and substance use treatment to the state's behavioral health providers. This is the first significant behavioral health rate increase in more than a decade and will allow the state to provide more competitive reimbursement rates for services and providers and extend access to care for behavioral health needs.

**PROMISED: Eliminating The Estate Tax** - Last year, Governor Christie called for the elimination of the Estate Tax in New Jersey.

✓ **DELIVERED:** On January 1, New Jersey's estate tax burden was lowered from a nation-worst \$675,000 exclusion to a \$2 million exemption, thanks to a bipartisan law signed by the

Governor last year that also included four other broad-based tax cuts for New Jersey consumers, workers, senior citizens and military veterans. Come January 1, 2018, New Jersey's estate tax will be completely eliminated.

**PROMISED: Charter School Expansion** - For tens of thousands of New Jersey children and parents stuck on public charter school waiting lists, Governor Christie has improved the authorizing and application process, encouraged more charter school applicants, and allowed districts to convert failing public schools into charters. The Christie Administration has increased the overall number of charter schools in New Jersey to 89, while relentlessly focusing on quality and holding all schools accountable for results by closing 17 charter schools to date. The Governor also pledged to give charter schools greater administrative flexibility and make it easier for charter schools to find facilities.

✓ **DELIVERED:** In May 2016, Governor Christie announced a series of regulatory and policy reforms to help pave the way for more quality, innovative charter schools in New Jersey and to help existing schools thrive and expand. This past week, the State Board of Education completed that task and are making charter schools in New Jersey even more effective by allowing them to be even more innovative.

**PROMISED: Training For Law Enforcement** - The Governor announced that in 2016 the state would expand training for law enforcement to recognize and deal with individuals with mental illness.

✓ **DELIVERED:** Building on the success of the Crisis Intervention Training Program, DHS worked with the Attorney General's Office, the County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey and others to develop and conduct one-day "train-the-trainer" workshops called "Police Response to Individuals with Mental Health/ Special Needs Issues". Thus far, five of these trainings have been conducted, teaching 450 law enforcement officers how to recognize and deal with individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities, including de-escalation techniques. The training is designed so that attendees can then work with their county mental health administrators to teach these strategies to other law enforcement professionals in their community.

Governor Christie has more than kept his promises to the people of New Jersey and he will continue to this year. Look for more life-saving and cost-cutting initiatives to be announced tomorrow.