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NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Signs Bill Ensuring Health Coverage for Domestic Violence Injuries

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following bills:

S-706, sponsored by Senators Robert Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Martha Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Assembly Members Rose Heck (R-Bergen) and Neil Cohen (D-Union), prohibits insurers from denying health benefits to victims of domestic violence. The bill addresses the concern that health insurers may be denying coverage for the treatment of domestic violence injuries.

A-1964, sponsored by Assembly Member Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D-Mercer) and Senators Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Peter Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex), limits the amount check cashers may charge to cash Social Security checks. The amount will be limited to one and one-half percent of the amount of the check or 90 cents, whichever is greater. Currently, check cashers can charge two percent.

A-1903, sponsored by Assembly Members Guy Talarico (R-Bergen) and Richard Bagger (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Senator Robert Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), clarifies the imposition of sales and use tax on direct mail advertising. The prior statute imposed a tax on "advertising services," but did not define the services. The new law taxes "direct mail advertising processing services in connection with distribution of advertising or promotional material."