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What They're Saying: "Compassion And Leadership"

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What They're Saying:

"Compassion And Leadership"

Governor Christie's Budget "Shows Sincere Concern For New Jersey's Most Vulnerable Citizens"

Philadelphia Inquirer: "Gov. Christie's \$32.9 billion budget shows sincere concern for New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens ..." (Editorial, "N.J. budget is hit-and-miss," Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/3/2013)

"Expanding Medicaid will save taxpayers \$227 million in costs, which will now be picked up by the federal government. That means New Jersey won't have to make painful service cuts or hike taxes."

The Press of Atlantic City: "The most welcome news was that the state will expand its Medicaid program, taking advantage of federal funds available under Obamacare to provide health insurance for tens of thousands of low-income residents." (Editorial, "Christie's budget address / Political pragmatism," Press of Atlantic City, 3/3/13)

AARP New Jersey Governmental Affairs Manager Douglas Johnston: "Governor Christie has chosen the right path for New Jersey...New Jersey will be a healthier state for this decision; indeed we will be saving lives." (AARP Praises Governor Christie's Decision to Put New Jersey First by Expanding Medicaid, Press Release, 2/26/13)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President and CEO Risa Lavizzo-Mourey: "The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ... applauds New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's decision to expand Medicaid in our state to residents earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level." ("RWJF Statement on Expansion of Medicaid in New Jersey," Press Release, 2/26/2013)

"The Governor's action will provide more than 300,000 New Jerseyans access to quality health care, and we hope will demonstrate to other states the value of expanding their own Medicaid programs."

New Jersey Hospital Association President and CEO Betsy Ryan: "Gov. Christie's decision to expand Medicaid is tremendous news for New Jersey – not just for those struggling without health insurance but also for the state overall in terms of improved health, increased federal funding and the economic ripple effects that go along with it." ("NJHA: Governor's Decision to Expand Medicaid 'Tremendous News,'" Press Release, 2/26/2013)

"We applaud the Governor for his decision. It is the right thing to do"

Medical Society of New Jersey: "Governor Christie's decision to expand Medicaid is a positive step that will create access to health insurance for many uninsured residents." ("Statement on NJ Medicaid Expansion," Press Release, 2/27/2013)

Hackensack University Health Network: "...is proud to support Governor Chris Christie's decision to accept federal financing in order to expand the state's Medicaid program....New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens will now have increased access to critical health care services." ("HackensackUHN Applauds Governor Christie's Decision to Expand Medicaid Coverage," Press Release, 2/28/2013)

HackensackUHN President and Chief Executive Officer Robert C. Garrett: "Governor Christie's decision is great news for HackensackUHN, the healthcare industry, and most importantly for the hundreds of thousands of current and future New Jersey residents who will now have increased access to some of the best patient care options in the country."

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Clearly, the Medicaid expansion is a victory for both the public health and economic security of the state and will further advance New Jersey's leadership in health policy."

The Burlington County Times: "[W]e applaud the governor for his decision...People need better access to essential health care services, and the health care act is the law of the land. Offering a safety net to thousands of struggling New Jersey families, without relying on state funds to do it, is what's best for residents right now." (Editorial, "Expansion is what's best," Burlington County Times, 2/28/13)

New Jersey Hospital Association President and CEO Betsy Ryan: "We also commend the Governor for his continued commitment to funding hospital care in New Jersey, preserving current levels of charity care funding and increasing support to teaching hospitals to educate the next generation of healthcare professionals." ("NJHA: Governor's Decision to Expand Medicaid 'Tremendous News,'" Press Release, 2/26/2013)

"We're proud to be an essential part of the fabric of the Garden State and appreciate the Administration's recognition of that role."

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. CEO Dr. Debra Wentz: "We thank Gov. Christie for showing compassion and leadership by protecting funding for community-based mental health and substance use treatment services." (Gov. Christie Demonstrates Ongoing Commitment to Vulnerable Populations in Budget Address, Press Release, 2/26/13)

"It is further heartening to know that the hospital-based segment of New Jersey's overall health and behavioral healthcare systems will also be protected under Governor Christie's proposed budget."

"Gov. Christie clearly understands all of the health needs that New Jersey residents have. He remains steadfast in his determination to rebuild and strengthen New Jersey, both physically on a large scale from the ravages of Hurricane Sandy and individually on a personal scale by ensuring everyone can receive all types of health care they need."

New Jersey Foundation for Aging: "[T]his budget provides a significant increase for Adult Protective Services whose staffs address the needs of NJ's most vulnerable citizens in the community who are at-risk of, or subject to, abuse, neglect or exploitation." (Budget 2014 Response- Thanks for protecting senior programs, Press Release, 2/26/13)

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (D-Essex): "We are very pleased to hear that he has decided to expand Medicaid." (NJ Assembly Democrat Press Conference, 3/26/2013)

Assembly Budget Chairman Vincent Prieto (D-Hudson/Bergen): "We actually heard about Medicaid expansion, which is all great." (NJ Assembly Democrat Press Conference, 3/26/2013)

State Sen. Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex): "With the Governor's announcement today that New Jersey will expand access to Medicaid for tens of thousands of New Jerseyans, we are finally moving in the right direction in terms of providing all residents access to quality, affordable health coverage." (Vitale: Providing New Jersey's Poor with Access to Health Coverage a Smart Step for State, Press Release, 2/26/13)

"By participating in the national Medicaid expansion program, we are ensuring the health and well-being of our citizens while allowing the federal government to pick up the tab for the next three years. This is a smart step for the state."

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06): "Expanding Medicaid in New Jersey just makes sense. The expansion of the Medicaid in the Affordable Care Act will save New Jersey billions of dollars that can be spend for other pressing needs in our state." (Pallone Applauds New Jersey Medicaid Expansion, Press Release, 2/26/13)

"The Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion will improve the health of hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans with the added benefit of extraordinary cost savings."

Congressman Rush Holt (NJ-12): "I am pleased to learn that Governor Christie has announced that New Jersey will expand Medicaid coverage." (Holt Statement on Gov. Christie's Announcement on Medicaid Expansion, Press Release, 2/26/13)

"Not only will Medicaid expansion result in greater health security for many in New Jersey, it also will result in substantial health care savings for our state."

New Jersey Policy Perspective Senior Policy Analyst Raymond Castro: "[Governor Christie] has demonstrated the leadership and independence of a governor who is willing to place the interests of New Jerseyans above partisan politics by opting to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act." (Statement of NJPP Senior Policy Analyst Raymond Castro on Gov. Christie's Decision to Expand Medicaid, Press Release, 2/26/13)

"His commendable decision is truly a win-win-win: it will improve the health of hundreds of thousands of struggling New Jerseyans, boost the state's ailing economy as a result of the influx of billions of dollars in federal funds, and save the state billions of dollars over the next decade."

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