

New Jersey Section

26 Eastmans Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

973-597-0938 Fax 973-597-0241

Chair

Joseph L. DeStefano, MD

Vice-Chair

Sharon B. Mass, MD

Secretary/Treasurer

Donald M. Chervenak, MD

Executive Director

Linda Bartolo

ACOGTHE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

April 13, 2010

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor of New Jersey
State House, PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Christie:

The New Jersey Obstetrical & Gynecological Society are dedicated to preserving access to women's healthcare in New Jersey. As such, we are very concerned that your proposed budget completely eliminates funding for family planning services and urge you to restore funds for the vital services they provide.

Each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$4 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid-related costs alone. **So, for the \$7.5 million saved by eliminating state funding for women's health care the state will pay at least \$30 million more in Medicaid expenses.**

As you may be aware, there is a severe shortage of Obstetricians and Gynecologists who practice in the State of New Jersey. Eliminating all state funds for family planning providers will only exacerbate this problem and will further drive our state further into a crisis of access.

In 2009, New Jersey's family planning agencies provided reproductive health care services to over 136,000 women and men. These services include a wide range of preventive health services such as routine gynecological exams; screening for high blood pressure, anemia and diabetes; contraception; breast and cervical cancer screening and education; screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs); HIV testing and counseling; pre-pregnancy counseling and education; pregnancy testing; and prenatal care and/or referral. State family planning dollars do not support abortion services.

