

**FRANK R. LAUTENBERG**

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 22, 2010

Governor Chris Christie  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

I am writing to urge that you refrain from vetoing legislation to restore funding for family planning services in New Jersey. Eliminating the \$7.5 million in funding for these services and withdrawing the Medicaid waiver to provide family planning services with a 90 percent federal match would reduce access to critical public health services and turn away millions of dollars in federal funding.

As you know, New Jersey has traditionally supported family planning health centers with state funding. Last year, these centers provided critical health care services, including breast exams, pap smears and HIV and other STD tests to 126,903 women and 9,461 men. Eliminating \$7.5 million in state funding for these critical reproductive and preventive health services threatens the health of individuals and their families who rely on this care.

In addition to this budget cut, I understand that you have withdrawn the state's application for a Medicaid waiver that would allow NJ to expand Medicaid coverage for family planning services for 70,000 New Jerseyans who do not qualify for Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare. If approved, the waiver would provide health screenings and contraceptive counseling and supplies to men and women between 18 and 49 with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). As you are aware, the federal government pays for 90 percent of the cost of family planning services provided under such waivers. Accordingly, a contribution of \$1 million from the state towards family planning services would receive \$9 million in federal matching funds. The legislation now before you would require New Jersey to access these critical federal funds. In the current fiscal climate where severe budget cuts to education, health and other key programs are being made, maximizing federal funding is both fiscally responsible and critical for the continued provision of these and other basic services.

Through the legislature, the people of New Jersey have demonstrated that they support family planning services. Last month, the New Jersey legislature passed a bill that restores funding for family planning and requires NJ to maximize Medicaid coverage. I urge you not to veto this critical legislation, and I look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming weeks and months to facilitate the continued provision of much-needed health services to New Jerseyans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank R. Lautenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "F" and a prominent "L".