

April 7, 2010

Hon. Christopher J. Christie
Office of the Governor
State House
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Governor Christie:

We just learned that your proposed budget completely eliminates funding for family planning services. We are concerned about the devastating impact this will have on women's health care in New Jersey and urge you to restore funds for the vital services they provide.

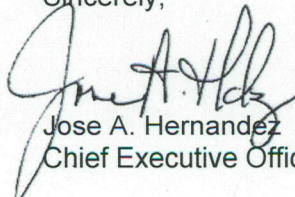
Each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$4 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid-related costs alone. **So, for the \$7.5 million saved by eliminating state funding for women's health care, the state will pay at least \$30 million more in Medicaid expenses.**

The YWCA of Trenton and Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area have a long history of working together to ensure individuals have access to family planning services in the city of Trenton. This cut would be devastating to the clients we serve.

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.

Completing eliminating funding for family planning services hurts the entire community and will cost us all more. We respectfully urge you to consider fully restoring funding for women's health in the final budget.

Sincerely,



Jose A. Hernandez
Chief Executive Officer