

June 29, 2015

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4604**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4604 without my approval.

Last week, I signed the bi-partisan Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act passed by the Legislature. For the sixth year in a row, this balanced and responsible budget maintains fiscal discipline, while providing for essential services for all New Jerseyans. Meeting that task requires hard choices, clear priorities, and a commitment to meeting our challenges within our means. I am proud that my Fiscal Year 2016 budget again funds important preventative health measures such as the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program, which funds mammograms, pap smears, and prostate exams. The budget also continues funding for the State's Federally Qualified Health Centers, which provide vital health care services to thousands of low-income New Jerseyans. In addition, the budget funds significant commitments to our state's future health, including cancer education and early detection, ovarian cancer research, breast cancer awareness, and maternal, child, and chronic health services.

Unfortunately, accompanying the bipartisan achievement of another balanced budget is another annual ritual of attempting to pass additional unbudgeted spending for selected interests. In what has sadly become a predictable routine, the sponsors of this bill and Assembly Bill No. 3672 once again seek to circumvent the budget process and pass legislation that would bestow bonuses to certain family planning clinics and establish a costly new Medicaid program within the Department of Human Services. As I have done every year since taking office, I will

again stand in the way of permitting the sponsors to force taxpayers to cover the cost for these added expenses.

Accordingly, because of the new financial burden these bills will levy on New Jersey's taxpayers outside of the budget process, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4604 without my approval.

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Respectfully,  
/s/ Chris Christie  
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Paul B. Matey  
Deputy Chief Counsel to the Governor