

## **NJ Bill Signing Remarks, As Prepared for Delivery**

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY IN NEW JERSEY.

FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, FORMER GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE BLOCKED STATE FUNDING FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND OTHER WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTERS.

FOR EIGHT YEARS, IT WAS HARDER FOR NEW JERSEY WOMEN TO ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE. DURING HIS TENURE, NEW JERSEY SAW A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN STI CASES ACROSS HALF ITS COUNTIES.

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER CASES WENT UP, TOO, DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. SIX WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTERS IN THE STATE CLOSED.

THIS IS A CAUTIONARY TALE OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GOVERNOR PUTS HIS POLITICS AHEAD OF WOMEN'S HEALTH.

BUT TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA. .

WITH THE SIGNING OF THIS BILL, GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY RESTORES STATE FUNDING FOR LIFE-SAVING CARE, INCLUDING CANCER SCREENINGS, STI TESTING, BREAST EXAMS, AND MORE.

NOT TO MENTION, HE REINSTATES THE RIGHT OF NEW JERSEY WOMEN, MEN, AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO CHOOSE PLANNED PARENTHOOD AS THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

THIS WIN DIDN'T COME EASY. IT TOOK EIGHT YEARS AND A WHOLE LOT OF PERSISTENCE. I'D LIKE TO THANK STATE SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG, THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THIS BILL. I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK U.S. HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, ASSEMBLYWOMAN JOANN DOWNEY, AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN PAM LAMPITT FOR THEIR OUTSPOKEN ADVOCACY.

BECAUSE YOU NEVER LET UP, NEVER STOOD DOWN, THOUSANDS MORE PEOPLE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

I WANT TO ALSO THANK THE FEARLESS LEADERSHIP OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEW JERSEY CEOS ROSYLN ROGERS COLLINS AND TRISTE BROOKS—AND THEIR AMAZING STAFF WHO EVERY DAY CONTINUED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF NEW JERSEY.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY HIMSELF.

GOVERNOR MURPHY HAS BEEN UNABASHEDLY PRO-WOMEN'S HEALTH SINCE HE ANNOUNCED HIS RUN FOR GOVERNOR IN 2016, AND THE PEOPLE OF NEW JERSEY HANDED HIM A LANDSLIDE VICTORY.

AND WORKING SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S OWN TRISTE BROOKS, GOVERNOR MURPHY TURNED HIS COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S HEALTH INTO A REALITY WITH LIGHTNING SPEED.

NEW JERSEY IS SHOWING THE REST OF THIS COUNTRY HOW IT'S DONE. AND AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE OTHER STATES FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE. SO WE RECENTLY LAUNCHED FIGHT FORWARD, AN INITIATIVE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IN ALL 50 STATES.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO PLAY DEFENSE—WE ARE GOING ON THE OFFENSE ALL ACROSS AMERICA.

TODAY IS A TESTAMENT TO WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER. IT TOOK ACTIVISTS, LAWMAKERS, DOCTORS, AND THE PUBLIC TO ENSURE PLANNED PARENTHOOD CAN NOW PROVIDE MORE CARE TO MORE WOMEN WHO NEED IT.

OUR PLANNED PARENTHOOD HEALTH CENTER MANAGER IN TRENTON, ALEXANDRA CRUZ-BANDROY SAID YESTERDAY, "HERE IN TRENTON, WE ARE VERY COMMUNITY BASED. WE SERVICE A HUGE POPULATION OF WOMEN WHO CLEAN HOUSES AND WORK RETAIL AND DON'T MAKE ENOUGH HOURS TO QUALIFY FOR COMPANY INSURANCE PLANS—THOSE ARE THE WOMEN THIS WILL HELP. **THIS FUNDING IS GOING STRAIGHT BACK INTO OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR PATIENTS.**"

THIS IS WHY WE DO THE WORK WE DO. TO ENACT POLICIES TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES FOR THE BETTER. SO THANK YOU, GOVERNOR MURPHY AND EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE. I KNOW THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.