

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4233**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4233 without my approval.

Advance care planning services are consultations between doctors and patients that help patients make plans about their future health care. These consultations can lead to the development of important health care directives, which may be memorialized in various legal documents, such as an advance directive. Recognizing the value of advance care planning, in 2011 I signed into law the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Act, which empowers individuals to convert their wishes regarding life-sustaining treatment, such as those set forth in an advance directive, into a medical order that must be honored in all health care settings. That bipartisan legislative achievement augmented other important initiatives that encourage advance care planning. For example, State law also requires hospitals, doctors, and psychiatric facilities to inform patients about advance directives and ensures that doctors discuss with patients and their families advance directives, when appropriate.

While I support the promotion of advance care planning and given that current law already encourages patients to use advance directives, I cannot sign this bill because it would impose a significant financial burden on the State by requiring Medicaid reimbursement for such services and, as such, should only be considered as part of the annual budget process.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4233  
without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,  
/s/ Chris Christie  
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scrivo  
Chief Counsel to the Governor