

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
SENATE BILL NO. 2317  
(First Reprint)

January 31, 2011

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2317 (First Reprint) without my approval.

This bill would establish the New Jersey Center for Oral Health at the New Jersey Dental School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey ("UMDNJ").

I commend the sponsors for their efforts to improve access to oral health services in New Jersey. As you know, my Task Force on Higher Education, established pursuant to Executive Order No. 26 (2010), recently issued a comprehensive report outlining solutions to address the many issues and challenges impeding the growth of the State's higher education institutions. Included in the Report are several recommendations concerning UMDNJ. As a result, I established, pursuant to Executive Order No. 51 (2011), a UMDNJ Advisory Committee ("the Advisory Committee") that is charged with, among other things, examining the Higher Education Task Force recommendations concerning UMDNJ.

Although the goals of this bill are laudable, establishing a new program at UMDNJ while the recommendations of the Higher Education Task Force are being studied would be inefficient. While I remain committed to expanding access to oral health services for all New Jerseyans, and would reconsider a new bill at the appropriate time, the ideas proposed by the Higher Education Task Force should be considered without additional changes to the structure of higher education. That being said, I look forward to working with the dental profession across the

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State to ensure that oral health services are provided to all  
New Jerseyans.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2317 (First  
Reprint) without my approval.

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie  
Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa  
Chief Counsel to the Governor