

SENATE BILL NO. 2413

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2413 without my approval.

Today, I signed the Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations Act passed by the Legislature. For the seventh year in a row, this balanced and responsible budget maintains fiscal discipline, while providing for essential services for all New Jerseyans. I am proud that the Fiscal Year 2017 budget has provided a significant amount of funding to New Jersey hospitals through, among other things, charity care funds and Medicaid expansion. The task of providing adequate funding for all our hospitals required hard choices, clear priorities, and a commitment to meeting our challenges within our means.

Unfortunately, the Legislature has continued its annual ritual of attempting to pass additional unbudgeted spending for selected interests. The sponsors of this bill seek to circumvent the budget process and pass legislation that would bestow bonuses to only two hospitals. Adding to the harm, these select bonuses would not qualify for federally matched funds. 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 this bill will levy on New Jersey's taxpayers outside of the budget process, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2413 without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scrivo

Chief Counsel to the Governor