

**NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF COLORED PEOPLE**

[www.njnaacp.org](http://www.njnaacp.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **THE NAACP CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE BIPARTISAN OVERRIDE OF GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S BUDGET.**

Contact:

George B. Gore, Political Action Chair  
(908) 568-8834  
[gbgore99@comcast.net](mailto:gbgore99@comcast.net)

Contact:

James Harris, President  
(973) 518-2990  
[info@njnaacp.org](mailto:info@njnaacp.org)

The NAACP opposes any legislation that will disproportionately affect the minority communities and endanger the welfare of our representatives from those communities. The NAACP opposes any cuts that will put children at risk; including the slashing of funding for programs designed to reduce child abuse and neglect and the care needed to recover. "The Governor has cut funds to aid cities, removed the funding for the restoration of police and firefighters needed to protect cities like Paterson and Camden; which is currently experiencing a huge increase in violent crimes such as arson. Mr. Christie has reduced their aid by additional \$69 million, and in our capital city, Trenton, which had gotten \$27 million, now will have to split \$10 million with other cities pushing them to budget disaster. The Governor's budget takes away the fundamental purpose of government, aid to those who most need it", stated James Harris President of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP (NJSCNAACP).

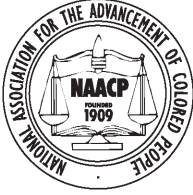
"Mayors, college officials and parents were surprised and disappointed in Governor Chris Christie's amended budget; he hijacked an already bad budget from the Democrats and made it worse for those who cannot afford any more reductions in services", said James Harris.

Governor Christie signed the budget he had trimmed to \$29.7 billion before the fiscal year ended at midnight Thursday; being fully aware that Democratic efforts to override his veto will come up short.

Governor Christie's slashing of almost a billion dollars from the Legislature's proposed budget further reduced or removed funds for education, health care, public safety and tax credits for the working poor, along with aid to the state's already struggling cities; thereby further pushing those least able to afford any more loss of services to the edge of civic efficacy. Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League said, "It seems to be an assault on the poor, an assault on the most vulnerable, it's going to have an effect on quality of life and community stability."

"The NAACP further echoes this sentiment and adds that as the oldest and largest Civil rights organization we will move to reverse this trend by all means necessary.

Governor Chris Christie has a lot to say about education now and when he was running for Governor of New Jersey, and has continually spoken about the need to fix the system, then eliminated \$55 million in college tuition grants, mostly for low-income students. Governor Christie's higher education task force has recommended that the state increase financing for education. Additionally, Governor Christie cut \$3 million for a program known as NJ After 3, which is intended to keep children off the streets after school another indicator of who he thinks need help. Christie's budget will reduce the program by \$30 million,



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affecting child care and after-school programs.

“Finally the Governor’s cut of \$500 million in Medicaid spending to the elderly and disabled will result in a major loss of services to working poor and seniors; two groups that his budget cuts seemed to hit the hardest” said Harris. The NAACP will be one of the organizations leading the charge to revise this budget immediately, we ask the legislature in this election year to work in the next few days to override the cuts to the budget and restore sanity to New Jersey’s Quality of Life. “The NAACP stands ready to join groups and organizations in the battle for the future of all New Jersey”, Harris concluded.

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**Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in education and in the public and private sectors. The NAACP is organized into State Conferences and Regions, and the New Jersey State Conference has 42 units or branches, a prison unit and increasing units or chapters on college and university campuses throughout the state. For more information about the New Jersey State NAACP, please visit us on the web at [www.njnaacp.org](http://www.njnaacp.org).**