

## **The Trentonian**

### **Mercer County legislators rip Governor Christie for vetoing their bills**

David Foster, September 11, 2014

TRENTON — Two 15th district legislators did not take kindly to their bills ending up in Gov. Chris Christie's shredder.

Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and State Sen. Shirley Turner (both D-Mercer/Hunterdon) released statements Thursday ripping the governor for vetoing their legislation.

Watson Coleman's legislation sought to expand Medicaid coverage for women.

"The governor's lack of empathy for low income New Jerseyans is relentless," said Watson Coleman, who is running for U.S. Rep. Rush Holt's seat in Congress this November. "This bill would have helped women who may otherwise not be able to afford to go to the doctor, get the services they need by expanding Medicaid coverage for women's health care.

The longtime legislator who previously called for Christie to resign on national TV after Bridgegate surfaced added the legislation should have received his blessing due to "moral and practical reasons.

"This is the latest in the governor's dangerously dismissive attitude towards women's health," she stated. "The governor's cuts to women's health care funding have led to the closure of six women's health care centers in the state, while others have had to cut back hours or increase wait times. Women in New Jersey again pay the price for the governor's personal ambitions."

Turner's bill dealt with banning smoking at public parks and beaches.

"The governor's veto is more than disappointing," Turner said. "Because of his action, families who visit our public beaches and parks will continue to suffer unnecessary exposure to cigarettes and other tobacco products."

Citing that smoking-related diseases cost the state an estimated \$3 billion, Turner said the bill is not a "local issue" as described by Christie.

"Public beaches and parks should be smoke free, places where families and children can enjoy outdoor activities free from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke," the longtime legislator said. "Eliminating smoking in these public places is common sense, especially given the dangerous and harmful effects of second-hand smoke that are well-documented and widely known."

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