

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4146
(Third Reprint)**

Assembly Bill No. 4146 (Third Reprint), which I have signed today, requires the establishment of two oversight boards to monitor the State's transition to a Medicaid-based fee-for-service reimbursement model for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services and for community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities. It also requires the State to retain a contractor to perform an independent evaluation of these transitions.

For the past six years, the State has made significant progress moving behavioral health services and community-based supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities into Medicaid. As I have previously explained, making the transition to a Medicaid-based fee-for-service reimbursement model has made available hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funding and allowed the State to expand access to services for the most vulnerable New Jerseyans.

The Legislature must keep in mind that we are one of the few states in the nation who have not completed this transition. Failure to finish this quickly leads us to continue to make payments for which no services are provided and lessens the amount of money available to help even more of our citizens. Both of those results are unacceptable. I sincerely hope that, in carrying out its objectives under this bill, the oversight boards work constructively and collaboratively with the Department of Human Services to further the goals of the transition to Medicaid-based repayments.

Additionally, while I am signing this bill, I am not doing so in a vacuum. When the State began this transition almost six years ago, it hired an independent contractor to provide recommendations for reimbursement rates for an exhaustive list of services. That contractor gathered substantial information as part of its comprehensive methodology. Therefore, I am directing the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Division of Purchase and Property, to avoid requesting duplicative services when issuing the Request for Proposals required by this bill. By doing so, I am seeking to ensure that this bill is being used appropriately to add value to the transition that has already benefited so many in this State.

Date: May 11, 2017

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Gregory L. Acquaviva

Chief Counsel to the Governor