

News & Information

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## NJAHU Honors Senator Vitale at Annual Conference

By NJAHU  
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The New Jersey Association of Health Underwriters ([www.njahu.org](http://www.njahu.org)) today honored Sen. Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex) as "2010 Legislator of the Year" during the association's annual conference.

David Mordo, chairman of the NJAHU's Legislative Management Team, presented the first-annual award to Vitale for his ongoing efforts to make health care accessible to all New Jersey residents.

"Senator Vitale has played a prominent role for many years to achieve an ultimate goal of improved quality and efficiency of health care in New Jersey," Mordo said. "He has taken on the hard issues of healthcare reform long before it had received such national attention and has been instrumental in finding solutions to the most difficult problems. Senator Vitale has worked hard. The NJAHU has taken notice of his effort, acknowledges his success and we are humbly impressed."

NJAHU President David Oscar noted Senator Vitale's landmark legislation – the Patient Safety Act – addresses the occurrences of medical errors by creating an internal reporting system within facilities. The state tracks these facilities and trends errors to make systemic changes and increase patient safety.

"Senator Vitale dedicates much of his energy to the New Jersey FamilyCare Program, which is evident during annual budget negotiations when he fights for every nickel," Oscar said. "His success for advocating on behalf of working families and those who can't advocate for themselves is outstanding."

NJAHU is active in legislative affairs in New Jersey, tracking and analyzing proposed health care reform policies and mandates. The Association sponsors an annual "State of the State in Healthcare" symposium each February that addresses and debates health care policies in New Jersey with elected and industry leaders. The event is open to the public.

Vitale accepted the "Legislator of the Year" award before about 400 attendees and sponsors of the Atlantic Regional Life and Health Underwriters conference, held annually on behalf of NJAHU and the New Jersey Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. The three-day event, held at the Tropicana Casino & Resort, features educational seminars, exhibitions and networking programs.

**Photo above:** Desmond Slattery, NJAHU President-Elect, (l) and Dave Mordo, Legislative Chair, award Senator Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex) with the 2010 Legislator of the Year award