



**Date :** March 19, 2003  
**To :** NJ State NAHU Board

**From :** Jack Kalosy, HIA, NJ State Legislative Chair

**Telephone :** 732-743-7340  
**Facsimile :** 732-743-7444

**Subject :** March Legislative Report

- 1 Details on the PAC
  - The HIAPAC currently has a balance of \$5,535.12 as of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003. We received our largest individual donation to date from Alex Petronella, a member of the North Jersey Chapter. We have made \$1,075 in donations to NJ legislators to date. Our fundraising efforts have resulted in over \$6,610.12 in donations since the PAC's formation in the fall of 2002. We need \$889.88 more in donations to reach our fiscal year goal of \$7,500!
  - We have a new HIAPAC donation form.
- 2 Current Legislative Environment
  - A draft of our High-Risk Pool legislation has been released from the OLS and sent to Sen. Adler for his review. We hope to have a copy shortly.
  - S-2331 Sweeney (D-3); Furnari (D-36) +3 – If passed this bill will Establish New Jersey Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices. (2002:A-3289)
  - S-2325 Kean, T. (R-21); Kavanaugh (R-16)- "New Jersey Medical Care Availability and Patient Protection Act of 2003." (2002:A-3170)
  - A-3354 Impreveduto (D-32); Moran (R-9)- Requires HMOs that contract with DHS to reimburse hospitals for emergency services based on cost of those services.
  - Vitale and Matheussen's bill S1520 that requires all health insurers to cover alcohol and drug addiction under the same terms as other diseases or illnesses has cleared the Senate Health Committee. – This bill threatens to increase cost by as much as 2.5%!
  - Senator Matthesuen's has decided to leave the Senate and accept a position
  - We have asked our Lobbyists to approach Sen. Codey and ask him to add Medicaid and Family Care to valid waivers in an attempt to clean up his original bill.
  - S2174 the senate bill that attempts to reform the Physicians Malpractice Insurance market has cleared the Senate Health committee.
- 3 Event planning
  - Capitol Conference (March 23-25, 2003) update
  - Jim Stenger and I have been invited to attend an event sponsored by the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We will both attend.

This is the list of bills that the NJAHU Legislative team is tracking.  
Health Underwriters Bill Tracking list (2002-2003)

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Bill:

A374

Sponsors:

Wisniewski (D19)

Summary:

Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first two years of life.

Related:

2002:S2095; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939

Status:

01/08/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A909

Sponsors:

Edwards (D34)

Summary:

Prohibits HMO's from imposing certain restrictions regarding provision of health care services to enrollees.

Related:

2002:S962; 2000:A288; 2000:S899; 1998:A326; 1998:S734; 1996:A2499

Status:

01/08/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A915 Acs (ACS)

Sponsors:

Edwards (D34); Weinberg (D37) +2

Summary:

"New Jersey Health Care Consumer Information Act."

Related:

2002:S571; 2000:A2439; 2000:S575; 1998:S766

Status:

12/12/2002 – Substituted by another bill

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

12/09/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee substitute, referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee. Reported out of committee,

referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Reported out of committee,  
2nd reading in Assembly.

12/12/2002 – Substituted by S-571 (SCS).

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A1019

Sponsors:

Connors, C. (R9); Moran (R9) +2

Summary:

Requires that chiropractors and physicians be reimbursed at same rate under various health and accident plans.

Related:

2000:A1883; 1998:A411; 1996:A2955

Status:

01/08/2002 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

Position:

Oppose

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Bill:

A1369

Sponsors:

Corodemus (R11)

Summary:

Requires HMOs and small employer health benefits plans that cover routine foot care to permit podiatric physicians to provide such services.

Related:

2000:A1205; 1998:A1400; 1996:A2905

Status:

01/08/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A1371

Sponsors:

Corodemus (R11)

Summary:

Defines routine foot care services under an insurance policy.

Related:

2000:A1941; 2000:S787

Status:

01/08/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A1392

Sponsors:

Doria (D31)

Summary:

Revises operations of Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits programs.

Related:

2000:A1606; 2000:S728; 1998:A3569; 1998:S2216

Status:

01/08/2002 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

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Bill:

A1715

Sponsors:

Frischia (D19)

Summary:

Prohibits hospital from denying admission or services to patient based on patient's HMO coverage, and requires HMO's to cover legitimate emergency health care.

Related:

2002:S537; 2000:A131; 2000:S750; 1998:A3429

Status:

02/04/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

02/04/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A1778 Aca (1R)

Sponsors:

Weinberg (D37); Sarlo (D36) +4

Summary:

"Health Care Claims Payment Responsibility Act."

Related:

2002:S486; 2000:A1656; 2000:S370; 1998:A2626; 1998:S1455

Status:

11/25/2002 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

02/11/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

11/25/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A1890

Sponsors:

Cohen (D20) +1

Summary:

"Health and Dental Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act."

Status:

02/21/2002 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

02/21/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

Position:

Oppose

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Bill:

A1897 Aca (1R)

Sponsors:

Weinberg (D37); Quigley (D32) +4

Summary:

Allows covered persons with out-of-network benefits in dental and health service corporations and dental plan organization plans to assign dental benefits to dentist of choice.

Related:

2002:S1409; 2000:A2168; 2000:S1290; 1998:A1658; 1998:S772; 1996:A2810; 1996:S1915

Status:

05/09/2002 – 2nd reading in the Assembly

History:

02/21/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

05/09/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A1933

Sponsors:

Vandervalk (R39); Weinberg (D37) +7

Summary:

Requires Medicaid coverage of HIV drug resistance testing.

Related:

2002:A2444; 2002:S2256

Status:

10/21/2002 – Combined with another bill

History:

02/28/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

10/21/2002 – Combined with A-2444.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A2356

Sponsors:

Bodine (R8); Chatzidakis (R8) +1

Summary:

Creates commission to study ways to increase insurance competition in New Jersey.

Related:

2002:S1539

Status:

05/16/2002 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

05/16/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

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Bill:

A2357

Sponsors:

Fisher (D3)

Summary:

Requires HMO's to provide standing referrals for specialists to enrollees with chronic illnesses or conditions.

Status:

05/16/2002 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

05/16/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A2444 AcsAca (ACS/1R)

Sponsors:

Roberts (D5); Greenwald (D6); Vandervalk (R39); Weinberg (D37) +10

Summary:

Requires Medicaid coverage of HIV drug resistance testing.

Related:

2002:A1933; 2002:S2256

Status:

03/10/2003 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

06/13/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

10/21/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee substitute, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

12/09/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

03/03/2003 – Passed in Assembly 79-0-0.

03/10/2003 – Received in Senate and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A2487 Acs (ACS)

Sponsors:

Weinberg (D37); Johnson (D37); Previte (D6) +10

Summary:

Revises statutory mental health coverage requirements and requires all health insurers to cover alcohol and drug addiction treatment under same terms and conditions as for other diseases or illnesses.

Related:

2002:S1633

Status:

02/27/2003 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

History:

06/17/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

02/27/2003 – Reported out of committee with committee substitute, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A2503

Sponsors:

Wisniewski (D19) +2

Summary:

Redirects \$125 million in payroll taxes from UI Fund to Health Care Subsidy Fund.

Related:

2002:S1628

Status:

06/30/2002 – Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor

History:

06/06/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.

06/13/2002 – Passed in Assembly 45-33-0. Received in Senate and referred to

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

06/20/2002 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.

06/24/2002 – Substituted for S-1628. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 37-0.

06/30/2002 – Signed by the Governor P.L.2002, c.29.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A2759 Aca (1R)

Sponsors:

Weinberg (D37); Ahearn (G38) +1

Summary:

Provides in-network benefits to patient with disability for services provided by out-of-network provider under certain circumstance.

Related:

2002:S1919

Status:

03/10/2003 – 2nd reading in the Assembly

History:

09/19/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

10/21/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

03/10/2003 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A2926

Sponsors:

Cohen (D20) +1

Summary:

Requires managed care carriers to provide certain physicians with fee schedules.

Related:

2002:S317; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735

Status:

10/21/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

10/21/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A3097

Sponsors:

Vandervalk (R39)

Summary:

Permits continued NJ FamilyCare eligibility for parent whose child turns 19 under certain circumstances.

Related:

2002:S2104

Status:

12/16/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

12/16/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A3137

Sponsors:

Roberts (D5); Weinberg (D37); Vandervalk (R39) +1

Summary:

Establishes the Mandated Health Benefits Advisory Commission.

Related:

2002:S2275; 2000:A2479

Status:

12/16/2002 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

12/16/2002 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Support

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Bill:

A3157 Aca (1R)

Sponsors:

Weinberg (D37); Conaway (D7) +1

Summary:

Establishes voluntary Statewide physician joint purchasing alliance.

Related:

2002:S2266

Status:

02/03/2003 – 2nd reading in the Assembly

History:

01/14/2003 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

02/03/2003 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A3289

Sponsors:

Burzichelli (D3); Fisher (D3); Johnson (D37) +1

Summary:

Establishes New Jersey Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices.

Related:

2002:S2331

Status:

02/04/2003 – Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History:

02/04/2003 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

A3371

Sponsors:

Stender (D22); Guear (D14)

Summary:

Requires health insurers to provide health benefits coverage for treatment of pathological gambling.

Status:

02/27/2003 – Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

History:

02/27/2003 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee.

Position:

Oppose

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Bill:

S317

Sponsors:

Matheussen (R4)

Summary:

Requires managed care carriers to provide certain physicians with fee schedules.

Related:

2002:A2926; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735

Status:

01/08/2002 – Senate Commerce Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S486

Sponsors:

Vitale (D19); Matheussen (R4) +16

Summary:

"Health Care Claims Payment Responsibility Act."

Related:

2002:A1778; 2000:A1656; 2000:S370; 1998:A2626; 1998:S1455

Status:

01/08/2002 – Senate Commerce Committee

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S571 Scs (SCS)

Sponsors:

Codey (D27); Vitale (D19); Edwards (D34); Weinberg (D37) +3

Summary:

"New Jersey Health Care Consumer Information Act."

Related:

2002:A915; 2000:A2439; 2000:S575; 1998:S766

Status:

01/27/2003 – Received in the Senate

History:

01/08/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

05/30/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee substitute, 2nd reading in Senate.

06/20/2002 – Passed in Senate 38-0. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

12/09/2002 – Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee. Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.

12/12/2002 – Substituted for A-915 (ACS). Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 77-0-0.

01/27/2003 – Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Senate.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S962

Sponsors:

Turner (D15)

Summary:

Prohibits HMO from imposing certain restrictions regarding provision of health care services to enrollees.

Related:

2002:A909; 2000:A288; 2000:S899; 1998:A326; 1998:S734; 1996:A2499

Status:

02/11/2002 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

02/11/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and

Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S1409 Sca (1R)

Sponsors:

Matheussen (R4); Inverso (R14) +1

Summary:

Allows covered persons with out-of-network benefits in dental and health service corporations and dental plan organization plans to assign dental benefits to dentists of choice.

Related:

2002:A1897; 2000:A2168; 2000:S1290; 1998:A1658; 1998:S772; 1996:A2810; 1996:S1915

Status:

05/09/2002 – 2nd reading in the Senate

History:

03/26/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

05/09/2002 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S1539

Sponsors:

Bark (R8) +1

Summary:

Creates commission to study ways to increase insurance competition in New Jersey.

Related:

2002:A2356

Status:

05/16/2002 – Senate Commerce Committee

History:

05/16/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

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Bill:

S1628

Sponsors:

Bryant (D5); Kenny (D33)

Summary:

Redirects \$125 million in payroll taxes from UI Fund to Health Care Subsidy Fund.

Related:

2002:A2503

Status:

06/24/2002 – Substituted by another bill

History:

06/06/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

06/20/2002 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.

06/24/2002 – Substituted by A-2503.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S1919

Sponsors:

Allen (R7)

Summary:

Provides in-network benefits to patient with disability for services provided by out-of-network provider under certain circumstances.

Related:

2002:A2759

Status:

09/30/2002 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

09/30/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S2073

Sponsors:

Bennett (R12)

Summary:

Provides for continued health benefits coverage for certain persons covered under small employer health benefits plans in certain circumstances.

Status:

11/14/2002 – Senate Commerce Committee

History:

11/14/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position:

Support

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Bill:

S2095

Sponsors:

Vitale (D19); Buono (D18)

Summary:

Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first two years of life.

Related:

2002:A374; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939

Status:

11/18/2002 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

11/18/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S2104

Sponsors:

Littell (R24)

Summary:

Permits continued NJ FamilyCare eligibility for parent whose child turns 19 under certain circumstances.

Related:

2002:A3097

Status:

11/18/2002 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

11/18/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S2200

Sponsors:

Girgenti (D35)

Summary:

Requires health insurers, Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for comprehensive program of pediatric feeding and swallowing services.

Related:

2002:A3146

Status:

01/09/2003 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

01/09/2003 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S2255

Sponsors:

Buono (D18); Cardinale (R39)

Summary:

Provides for inactive insurance producer licenses and the required hours of continuing education needed to renew a producer license.

Status:

01/23/2003 – Senate Commerce Committee

History:

01/23/2003 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S2256

Sponsors:

Vitale (D19); Singer (R30)

Summary:

Requires Medicaid coverage of HIV drug resistance testing.

Related:

2002:A1933; 2002:A2444

Status:

01/23/2003 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

01/23/2003 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

S2275

Sponsors:

Bennett (R12); Codey (D27) +1

Summary:

Establishes the Mandated Health Benefits Advisory Commission.

Related:

2002:A3137; 2000:A2479

Status:

01/27/2003 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

01/27/2003 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Support

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Bill:

S2331

Sponsors:

Sweeney (D3); Furnari (D36) +6

Summary:

Establishes New Jersey Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices.

Related:

2002:A3289

Status:

02/10/2003 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

02/10/2003 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Monitor

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Bill:

SCR25

Sponsors:

Connors, L. (R9)

Summary:

Memorializes Congress to enact legislation concerning prescription drug coverage through Medicare program.

Related:

2000:ACR100; 2000:SCR32; 1998:ACR187; 1998:SCR137

Status:

01/15/2002 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History:

01/15/2002 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position:

Oppose

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Kalosy

NJ State Legislative Chair