



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dr. David Taylor  
President & Chairman*

Dear NJPCAC Member:

I have heard the expression that “watching our laws being made is a lot like watching sausage being made.”

Well, having been an eyewitness to a change in the law we have long sought, I have to disagree. In fact, it was more like sitting down to a gourmet meal.

As you will read elsewhere in our Winter Newsletter, Governor Chris Christie earlier this month signed into law legislation amending New Jersey’s “Codey Act” to allow for new ownership

by referring urologists in lithotripsy-only entities like NJPCAC member The Stone Center of New Jersey. A 2009 amendment to the Codey Act barred such new ownership, but was inconsistent in that it permitted new ownership in Ambulatory Surgical Centers providing lithotripsy. Early last year, we made a decision to try and change the law to make it consistent.

The yearlong process from decision to final enactment went so smoothly that it reminded me of anything other than sausage making.

When we explained the inherent unfairness of the 2009 amendments to Legislators they both understood and were anxious to help. Even the author of The Codey Act himself - Governor (Senator) Richard Codey.

I want to personally thank our counsel, Howard Rubin, who assisted in drafting the legislation; our lobbyist, Donald

Sico, who shepherded the bill through the process; Mary Beth Guilbert and Kelly Snyder from The Stone Center, who took time from their busy day to travel to Trenton and explain the issue to Governor Codey and Senator Joe Vitale, the Chairman of the Senate Health Committee; and all of our NJPCAC members who reached out to legislators to ask for their support for the measure.

I, of course, am also grateful to Governor Codey, Senator Vitale and Assembly Health Committee Chairman Dr. Herb Conaway, who sponsored the bill in the Assembly, for all of their help and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Taylor  
President & Chairman

*The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC) promotes and represents the common interests of urological care physicians in the State of New Jersey who are dedicated to the highest standards of practice and focuses on addressing the challenges that confront our healthcare system. NJPCAC's membership includes nearly 200 practicing urologists and scores of additional healthcare professionals, including radiation oncologists, pathologists, nurses and administrative staff, who have come together to educate policy makers, regulators, insurers and other key stakeholders, including patients and peers about regulatory changes that will adversely affect the quality and accessibility to care provided to patients in New Jersey and those that will advance care in New Jersey. NJPCAC promotes and pursues educational, legislative and regulatory interests that are common to these urological care physicians and the advancement of patient care and access in the State of New Jersey.*



## Lithotripsy Bill Becomes Law

On Monday January 13th Governor Chris Christie signed into law S2779/A4222 (Vitale/Codey/Conaway/Benson/Munoz/Handlin) - "Allows practitioner with financial interest in health care service providing lithotripsy to refer patients to that health care service if certain conditions are met." The Chapter Law number is P.L. 2013, c.178 and it is effective immediately.

This is a tremendous victory for our Coalition and further evidence of the effectiveness of our team and our strategy. We were extraordinarily successful at every level throughout the yearlong process to change the law. The legislation received unanimous votes in both the Senate and Assembly Health Committees and before the full Senate and Assembly as well. Governor Christie signed the bill less than a month after its final passage by the Assembly on December 19th.

This was truly a team effort by NJPCAC. Everyone who took the time to come to Trenton to attend meetings and testify before the committees as well as those who attended meetings with and called Legislators made a big difference.

The law took effect immediately upon Governor Christie signing it.

Here is a Timeline of the Bill:

May 20, 2013: S2779 introduced in the Senate by Senators Joe Vitale and Richard Codey

June 3, 2013: S2779 reported from the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee by a vote of 10-0

June 10, 2013: Identical legislation - A4222 - introduced in the Assembly by Assemblyman Herb Conaway

November 18, 2013: A4222 reported from Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee by a vote of 9-0. Committee members Daniel Benson, Nancy Munoz and Amy Handlin added as sponsors.

December 19, 2013: S2779 passed by the Senate by a vote of 37-0.

December 19, 2013: S2779 received in the Assembly and merged with A4222 and then passed by the Assembly by a vote of 79-0. Bill is sent to the Governor for his consideration.

January 13, 2014: S2779/A4222 signed into law by Governor Chris Christie.



*Dr. Taylor testifies before the Assembly Health Committee with NJPCAC Lobbyist Donald Sico*

## Meet the New Legislators

### BARNES ASSUMES ROLE AS NEW 18TH DISTRICT SENATOR



Senator Peter J. Barnes III was sworn into the New Jersey State Senate on January 14th after seven years in the General Assembly. He will continue to represent the people of the 18th Legislative district.

"I am honored that my constituents have asked me to continue to represent them in Trenton, now as their elected State Senator," said Senator Barnes. "I am looking forward to starting this new chapter in the Senate."

The 18th Legislative District consists of the Middlesex County communities of East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Highland Park, Metuchen, South Plainfield and South River in Middlesex County.

**BORN:** April 26, 1956

**EDUCATION:** B.A. Gettysburg College (Political Science); M.B.A. Fairleigh Dickinson University (Management); J.D. Widener University School of Law

**OCCUPATION:** Attorney, Law Offices of Peter Barnes

**PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE:** Twp of Edison Municipal Council 1996-2007, Planning Board 2001-03

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Senate 2014-present; General Assembly 2007-13, Majority Whip 2010-13

**COMMITTEES:** Economic Growth, Vice-Chair; Budget and Appropriations; State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation

**PARTY AFFILIATION:** Democrat

### NANCY PINKIN BRINGS HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE TO ASSEMBLY

East Brunswick Councilwoman Nancy Pinkin was sworn in as the newest member of the 18th Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly on January 14th.



"I am thankful to the voters who placed their confidence in me. Serving in elected office is a privilege and responsibility I hold in the highest regard," said Pinkin (D-Middlesex). "As the newest 18th district representative, I look forward to working with my fellow colleagues in the Assembly and tapping into my experience in health care and prudent fiscal management."

Pinkin runs her own healthcare and association management consulting firm, Pinkin Associates, Inc., and has an extensive background in healthcare administration, with an expertise in ambulatory care and medical practice management. She is also the Executive Director of the Middlesex and Mercer County Medical Societies.

Assemblywoman Pinkin is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American College of Healthcare Executives. The 18th district covers East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Highland Park, Metuchen, South Plainfield and South River.

**BORN:** August 4

**EDUCATION:** A.A.S. Middlesex County College (Applied Science); B.S. Rutgers University; M.P.A. New York University (Public/Health Administration); University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (Health Policy and Research)

(Asw. Pinkin, Continued from Page 3)

OCCUPATION: Health Consultant & Association Management, Pinkin Associates, Inc.

PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE: East Brunswick Township Council 2005-present, President 2006-08; East Brunswick Planning Board 2005, 08-09

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2014-present

PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

### **NORTHFIELD MAYOR VINCE MAZZEO JOINS ASSEMBLY FROM 2ND DISTRICT**



Northfield City Mayor Vince Mazzeo has been sworn in as the newest representative of the 2nd Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly on January 14th.

"I am grateful to the voters who entrusted me with the opportunity to serve them in the legislature," said Mazzeo (D-Atlantic). "As Mayor of Northfield, I have worked tirelessly to give residents a transparent and open government that strives to preserve our quality of life and save taxpayers money."

Mazzeo was elected to the Northfield City Council in 2003, and subsequently as mayor in 2007. Mazzeo has been a part of his family's fruit and produce business, B.F. Mazzeo, for nearly 30 years.

The 2nd district includes Absecon, Atlantic City, Brigantine, Buena, Buena Vista, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Folsom, Hamilton (Atlantic), Linwood, Longport, Margate City, Mullica, Northfield, Pleasantville, Somers Point and Ventnor City. *Additional biographical information on Asm. Mazzeo was not available at press time.*

### **JOSEPH LAGANA SWORN IN TO REPRESENT 38TH DISTRICT**

Assemblyman Joseph Lagana received the oath of office from Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto on January 14th to become one of the newest members of the General Assembly, representing the 38th legislative district.



"It is truly an honor to be able to serve the residents of the 38th legislative district in the General Assembly," said Lagana (D-Bergen, Passaic). "My experience at the local level helped me gain first-hand knowledge of the struggles facing everyday families in our state such as affordability, unemployment, and property taxes, just to name a few."

The 38th District includes the towns of Bergenfield, Fair Lawn, Glen Rock, Hasbrouck Heights, Hawthorne, Lodi, Maywood, New Milford, Oradell, Paramus, River Edge, Rochelle Park, Saddle Brook.

BORN: December 15, 1978

EDUCATION: B.A. Fordham University (History); J.D. Thomas M. Cooley Law School

OCCUPATION: Attorney, Chasan, Leyner & Lamparello, P.C.

PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE: Borough of Paramus Council President 2012-2013

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2014-present

PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat



**MARIA RODRIGUEZ-GREGG SWORN  
INTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FROM 8TH DISTRICT**



Assemblywoman Maria Rodriguez-Gregg took the oath of office today, joining the General Assembly representing the 8th Legislative District (Burlington, Atlantic and Camden).

"I am honored to represent the residents of the 8th District in Trenton. I welcome the opportunity to work hard to bring new and better jobs to New Jersey, and make our state more affordable for struggling families and seniors," said Rodriguez-Gregg. *Additional biographical information on Assemblywoman Rodriguez-Gregg was not available at press time.*

**SAM FIOCCHI INSTALLED TO  
REPRESENT DISTRICT 1 IN  
THE ASSEMBLY**

Sam Fiocchi took the oath of office on January 14th for his first term representing Legislative District 1 in the General Assembly.



"This is an honor and a responsibility that I take very seriously. As a business owner, former county official, and local volunteer, I understand what works in New Jersey, and what we can do better," said Fiocchi.

Fiocchi served four years on the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

**BORN:** October 1  
**EDUCATION:** St. Augustine Prep; Widener University  
**OCCUPATION:** Legislator  
**PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE:** Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders 2011-13, City of Vineland Zoning Board 2009-11  
**LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** General Assembly 2014-present  
**PARTY AFFILIATION:** Republican

**ROBERT AUTH TAKES OATH OF  
OFFICE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Robert Auth was sworn into the General Assembly January 14th, representing Legislative District 39 (Bergen and Passaic).



"It is an honor to serve in the General Assembly, representing the hard-working people of District 39," said Auth. "I appreciate the opportunity to fight for their interests, and the interests of all New Jersey residents.

Auth, the founder and CEO of Plaza Travel and Insurance Services, resides in Old Tappan with his wife, Elsa.

**EDUCATION:** B.A. New York University (History/Philosophy)  
**OCCUPATION:** Chief Executive Officer, Plaza Travel and Insurance Services Ltd.  
**PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE:** Teacher, North Bergen Board of Education, 2004-06  
**LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** General Assembly 2014-present  
**PARTY AFFILIATION:** Republican

## **CARMELO GARCIA AND RAJ MUKHERJI TAKE OATH OF OFFICE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Carmelo G. Garcia and Raj Mukherji were sworn-in to represent the 33rd Legislative District during the New Jersey General Assembly reorganization meeting on January 14th.

The 33rd Legislative District includes the Hudson County municipalities of Hoboken, Union City, Weehawken, and a portion of Jersey City.

"It is an honor to represent the people of Hudson County as a member of the Assembly," said Garcia (D-Hudson). "I look forward to working on issues that are important to our residents.

"I am proud to take part in building a better New Jersey from the seat in the General Assembly," said Mukherji (D-Hudson). "There is much work to do this session. My colleagues and I are ready to hit the ground running on behalf of Hudson County and the people of New Jersey."

Mr. Garcia worked as a Legislative Aide for the County of Hudson Board of Chosen Freeholders then served as Chief of Staff, from 1999-2011.

Raj Mukherji founded an Internet consulting and software development company while in middle school, grew it, and later sold it to a larger technology company to join the Marines two weeks after 9 / 11 at age 17, where he served in military intelligence for the Marine Corps Reserve. As a young entrepreneur, he withdrew from high school at 15 to enroll in an early college program at Bard College at Simon's Rock and eventually earned a bachelor's degree from Thomas Edison State College, an

individualized Master of Liberal Arts focused on national security from the University of Pennsylvania, and a law degree (Juris Doctor), cum laude, from Seton Hall Law School.

### **Carmelo G. Garcia**

**BORN:** April 5, 1975

**EDUCATION:**

B.S. Seton Hall University (Criminal Justice/ Sociology); M.S. Stevens Institute of Technology (Information Systems/ Management)

**OCCUPATION:** Executive Director, City of Hoboken Housing Authority

**PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE:** Hoboken Board of Education 2002-present, N.J. Democratic State Committee 2002-05

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** General Assembly 2014-present

**PARTY AFFILIATION:** Democrat



### **Raj Mukherji**

**BORN:** July 15, 1984

**EDUCATION:**

B.A. Thomas Edison State College; M.L.A. University of Pennsylvania; J.D. Seton Hall Law School

**OCCUPATION:** Healthcare Investments

**PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE:** Jersey City Housing Authority Chairman, 2008-Present; Jersey City Deputy Mayor 2012-13

**MILITARY SERVICE:** U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Sergeant

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** General Assembly 2014-present

**PARTY AFFILIATION:** Democrat



## New Speaker Takes Office



The New Jersey General Assembly has elected a new Speaker for the 216th Legislative Session - Vincent Prieto of Secaucus. He replaces Sheila Oliver from Newark who served as Speaker for the past four years.

Born in 1960 in Cuba, Speaker Prieto came to the United States when he was 10. Mr. Prieto received his certification in construction code technology from Middlesex County College; and his certification in fire code technology from Bergen County Community College. He is a construction code official in Secaucus.

Mr. Prieto and his wife, Marlene, have two children: Amanda and Vincent Andrew.

Mr. Prieto represents the 32nd Legislative District, which includes the Bergen County municipalities of Edgewater and Fairview; and the Hudson County municipalities of East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus and West New York.

Assemblyman Prieto took the oath as New Jersey's 170th Assembly Speaker on Tuesday January 14th. In his address to the Assembly he promised to put the Assembly's focus on tackling the nation's highest property taxes and soaring higher education, combating the state's shocking poverty rate, improving vocational education and providing all New Jersey workers with earned sick leave.

"I know what it's like to struggle to make ends meet, to wonder where the next meal will be found and to worry about keeping a warm roof above one's head," Prieto said. "I know how a helping hand can lead to giants steps forward, and that's why a more affordable New Jersey is my goal."

Prieto detailed the following agenda:

- \* Controlling property taxes. Prieto noted a net 20 percent increase in property taxes over the last four years.

"That's a failed system that is crushing our middle-class and poor," Prieto said. "We can tinker around the edges, throw about criticisms and avoid tough conversations, but that's not my style. It's time to reduce the brutal property tax burden crushing our middle-class and poor."

- \* Combating poverty. He noted U.S. Census figures show 1.35 million New Jerseyans now living in poverty.

"We're going to take a hard look at this problem," Prieto said. "The Assembly has taken the lead in recent years on legislation to make housing more affordable and create better-paying jobs, and we will not waver."

- \* Earned sick leave. Prieto noted how when a serious illness arises, many New Jersey workers face a brutal choice – stay home and risk losing their job or go to work sick because they lack financial security. He said earned sick leave for all workers would help combat this dilemma.

"Earned sick leave means stronger families, stronger workplaces and stronger communities," Prieto said. "I want it to become law."

- \* Targeting soaring higher education costs.

"We cannot allow the weakening of tuition aid grants to continue if we want better futures for middle-class and lower-income children," Prieto said. "We will take another look at the tuition study commission to address the college affordability crisis."

- \* Improved vocational education throughout the state. *(Continued on Page 8)*

*(Speaker Prieto, Continued from Page 7)*

"Vocational training can lead to apprenticeships and job opportunities in the trades for our youth who otherwise may be unemployed and adding to the poverty problem," he said. "Improving vocational education for our next generation is common sense in today's economy."

## New Health Committees Named

Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto have named the membership of the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee and the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Dr. Herb Conaway and Senator Joseph Vitale remain as Chairs of the two committees.

### Assembly Health and Senior Services (Group A)

Conaway, Herb - Chair  
Benson, Daniel R. - Vice Chair  
Angelini, Mary Pat  
Cryan, Joseph  
Eustace, Timothy J.  
Fuentes, Angel  
Green, Jerry  
Handlin, Amy H.  
Jimenez, Angelica M.  
Munoz, Nancy F.  
Peterson, Erik  
Sumter, Shavonda E.

### Old Committee

Conaway, Herb  
Benson, Daniel R.  
Angelini, Mary Pat  
Jimenez, Angelica M.  
Sumter, Shavonda E.  
Green, Jerry  
Munoz, Nancy F.  
Handlin, Amy  
Peterson, Erik  
Eustace, Timothy J.  
Tucker, Cleopatra G.

The Assembly committee changes from an 11-member committee to a 12-member committee with an 8-4, Democrat to Republican split. Assemblyman Fuentes works at Cooper Hospital as a "Patient Relations Specialist" and Assemblyman Cryan is a Union County Undersheriff.

### Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens (Group 2)

Vitale, Joseph F. Chair  
Madden, Fred H. Vice-Chair  
Addiego, Dawn Marie  
Allen, Diane B.  
Codey, Richard J.  
Gordon, Robert M.  
Pennacchio, Joseph  
Rice, Ronald L.  
Singer, Robert W.  
Whelan, Jim

### Old Committee

Vitale, Joseph F.  
Madden, Fred H.  
Addiego, Dawn Marie  
Allen, Diane B.  
Buono, Barbara  
Gordon, Robert M.  
Rice, Ronald L.  
Singer, Robert W.  
Thompson, Samuel  
Whelan, Jim

The Committee remains a 10-member committee with a 6-4 Democrat to Republican split. Governor Codey replaces Senator Barbara Buono, who ran for Governor, and Senator Pennacchio replaces Senator Thompson, who joined the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Governor Codey is a former funeral home director who now lists his current occupation as "insurance consultant" and Senator Pennacchio is a dentist.





## Advocacy Update

*By Donald Sico, Donald Sico & Co. LLC*

The 215th Legislative Session is history and the 216th has commenced.

The 215th Legislature was one of the most active in history. Spurred to advocacy by SuperStorm Sandy and the horrible shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, Legislators introduced a total of 8,463 bills and resolutions during the two year term. Even with that number of bill introductions, they fell short of the record for the most number of bills and resolutions introduced in a legislative session which was 9,101 during the 1988-1989 legislative session.

Governor Chris Christie did set a record, however. During the two-year 215th Legislature, the Governor vetoed 164 bills sent to him by the Legislature – breaking his own record of 138 vetoes set during the 2010-2011 legislative session. While records only go back to 1988, it is believed that no governor has come close. And not a single one of the Governor's vetoes was overridden by the Legislature.

So what can we expect from the new 216th Legislature?

Well, for the most part, not much has changed.

Yes, there is a new Speaker of the General Assembly - Vincent Prieto of Hudson County - and there are a handful of new members with just one new Senator. (See article on New Members of the Legislature on Pages 3-7 for profiles of the new speaker and the newly elected members.) Senate President Steve Sweeney was reelected by his colleagues to a third term in that post. And the Majority Leaders in both houses - Senator Loretta Weinberg and Assemblyman Lou Greenwald remain the same.

The Chairs of the Health Committees remain the same: Senator Joe Vitale and Assemblyman Dr. Herb Conaway remain at the helm.

From a policy perspective, the Governor emphasized property tax relief, education and crime in his State of the State and Inaugural messages. With regards to health care issues, we can expect to see Affordable Care Act implementation issues addressed as well as two issues that the Legislature addressed but did not complete in the last session: Out of Network reform and Ambulatory Surgical Center licensing.

And, of course, the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition will always be mindful and vigilant about efforts to restrict our integrated model of care.

## Calling All New Jersey Urologists

We are always looking to expand the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition because we understand there is “strength in numbers.” We recently completed a mailing to every urologist in the State of New Jersey and asked them to join our growing Coalition. If you know of a colleague who is not a member, please invite him or her to join and to take a look at our [webpage](http://www.njpcac.org) (www.njpcac.org) for additional information. There is also a membership application form on the webpage they can use to contact us if they want to join.

### **New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition**

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