

## Statement of Triste Brooks, President & CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey on the Closure of the Dover Health Center

In March of this year, we learned that Governor Chris Christie proposed the complete elimination of the State budget line for women's health and family planning. This decision resulted in an overall loss of \$7.4 million to providers across the state and a \$1.2 million loss to Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey (PPGNNJ). Established 77 years ago in Morristown, PPGNNJ is the largest and one of the oldest family planning agencies in the State. Last year, we provided almost 70,000 reproductive health visits at 10 centers in 7 counties.

Our goal is to do everything possible to maintain patient access to the much needed services we provide. Sadly, these cuts are unprecedented and there is no way to avoid impact on our patient services. At this time, it is with great regret we announce that we will be closing our **Dover Health Center** at the end of this year.

We sincerely regret the impact that this decision will have on the Dover community and individuals in this service area. Our Dover Health Center has been providing much-needed reproductive health care services to this community for over 40 years. Our nurses and medical professionals who work in Dover are devastated – not just because of the loss of their jobs, but also because they are concerned about the well-being of their patients.

We will be working over the next months to partner with other non-profits and medical providers in the area to make referrals and provide information about how members of the Dover community can continue to access our services in one of our other locations, possibly at our other Morris County location in Morristown. We know that not all of our patients will make the transition to a new provider or will be able to travel to Morristown; however, we must make every effort to transition as many patients as possible.

This is a time for our community to come together. We must continue our fight to reverse the Governor's devastating cuts. There are so many women and men in need of quality reproductive health care services in New Jersey. It is essential that the state properly fund women's health and family planning services for the good of the entire state.

For questions or additional information, please contact: Triste Brooks at (973) 539-9580, ext. 150 or [Triste.Brooks@ppgnnj.org](mailto:Triste.Brooks@ppgnnj.org), or Leslie Zucker at (973) 539-9580, ext. 141 or [Leslie.Zucker@ppgnnj.org](mailto:Leslie.Zucker@ppgnnj.org).

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### About Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey

Since 1932, PPGNNJ has offered high-quality, low-cost medical services to all, regardless of economic circumstance. Reproductive health care comprises the major aspect of the medical services provided by the agency. The agency's core services include birth control orientation, counseling and supplies; pregnancy testing; diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections; cancer screening and routine gynecologic examinations. PPGNNJ is the largest (and one of the oldest) family planning agency

in the State. In addition to its headquarters in Morristown, PPGNNJ operates clinics in Englewood (Bergen County), Hackensack (Bergen County), Flemington (Hunterdon County), Dover (Morris County), Manville (Somerset County), Morristown (Morris County), Newton (Sussex County), Elizabeth (Union County), Plainfield (Union County) and Phillipsburg (Warren County). All PPGNNJ medical facilities are handicapped accessible.