

New Jersey Catholic Conference

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ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: The Fiscal Year 2011 Budget promulgated by Governor Christie contains the elimination of the State portion of the school lunch program for nonpublic school students only. Public school students will retain full benefits of the school lunch program from both federal and state sources. This cut amounts to 5% of the program and is a total of \$439,000 from the State Budget.

OUR POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families opposes this cut because it sets up a dual standard for public and nonpublic school students. Nonpublic school students should receive the same benefits from this program as do their public school counterparts.

ACTION: Call, email or write, the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee (see attached list) to ask that there be parity for both nonpublic and public school students with respect to the state portion of the school lunch program. The rationale for this seems obvious, and those who operate nonpublic school lunch programs can make the case specifically in terms of the effect of this cut on their programs. Members of the Budget Committee will have an opportunity to make recommendations to the Governor's Budget in June, and we ask that you make a persistent effort to contact them about this inequity over the next several months.

For your convenience, the Capwiz link is provided as a simplified way to express your opposition to A-1406

<http://capwiz.com/njcathconf/home/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE PARTICIPATION.

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