

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS



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Assemblyman Jay Webber / 973-984-0922
Assembly Republican Press Office / 609-292-5339

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WEBBER: OUR DIVERSIONARY GOVERNOR SHOULD STOP SIPHONING FUNDS FROM DEDICATED SOURCES

MORRIS PLAINS — On the occasion of a Morristown rally of Volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians against Governor Corzine's raiding of the New Jersey EMT Training Fund, Assemblyman Jay Webber (R-26, Morris and Passaic) issued this statement:

Governor Corzine's budget proposal takes \$4 million from a dedicated account established in 1995 to fund EMT training through 50 cents for every moving violation in the State. Raiding this fund will leave it with just \$400,000, meaning 20,000 volunteers then would have to pay for their own EMT training. It is among many non-recurring resources proposed by the Governor to "balance" his budget.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget lists at least 14 areas that would have portions of their funds redirected to "balance" New Jersey's books. Those raids are in keeping with the practices of each of the last three Democratic Governors, who have diverted over \$10.3 billion in revenues from 54 dedicated sources since 2003, all to pay for bloated budgets New Jersey citizens cannot afford.

The Governor should be taking much less money from taxpayers in the first place, but when the State takes the people's money and pledges to put it toward specifically dedicated programs, the money should stay dedicated. By raiding established funds, the Governor breaches his duty to the people, exposes programs to underfunding when people need services the most, and causes tax increases to cover the inevitable shortfalls when the dedicated funds run out.

Worse, siphoning from dedicated funds drains the people's trust out of government because their money is not going where the government promised it would go. Our citizens lose more than their money in these raids — they also lose faith in their elected representatives. Governor Corzine continues to funnel billions of taxpayer dollars into failed programs while forcing dedicated volunteers, who already give generously to their communities, to reach into their own pockets to fund the training for that selfless service. Those kinds of diversions must stop.

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