

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2012

Governor Chris Christie
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

I write regarding the New Jersey Higher Education (NJHE) Task Force Report and your pending proposal to the state legislature on the reorganization of New Jersey's higher education system.

As you know, I am a strong supporter of higher education in our state, and as New Jersey's U.S. Senator, I have worked to support federal funding for New Jersey colleges and universities and to expand the availability of federal student aid for New Jersey students.

Many concerned New Jerseyans have raised questions about the specifics of the plan and your endorsement of it. As you work to develop your proposal to the legislature, I ask that you provide answers to the questions below to address these concerns.

Overall

1. What evidence, data, or analysis did the Governor's office and the Task Force use to conclude that the proposed reorganization plan will make the state more competitive for federal grants?
2. Similarly, what evidence, data, or analysis was used to conclude that the plan will increase investment, improve the education system, and create jobs across the state? Please include estimates of increases in public and private investments, economic growth, and job creation and how the task force's plan compares to alternative proposals.

Merger of Rutgers-Camden into Rowan University

3. Taking into account federal, state, and institutional financial aid, the price of attending Rowan University is, on average, \$5,000-8,000 more than attending Rutgers-Camden. Will the price of attending college for students who currently attend Rutgers-Camden increase? If so, what accommodations will be made for former Rutgers-Camden students who cannot afford to attend Rowan?
4. Rutgers-Camden and Rowan receive large amounts of federal grant money. How would a combined university under Rowan's leadership manage the federal grant

process? Please specify how the change would impact federal grants that have already been awarded to Rutgers-Camden and Rowan, the combined university's potential to attract new grants, the process by which grants will be transferred between the two universities, and information on whether any grants the universities have received may be forfeited because of the changes.

5. Rutgers-Camden has more than 600 employees. How will these changes affect employees of the university? What accommodations will be made for current Rutgers faculty who utilize facilities that will now span the two universities? Will tenured faculty retain tenure after Rowan's takeover? Please detail how labor contracts, employment benefits, and retirement plans will be affected by this change and what accommodations will be made for any reductions in benefits that current employees of Rutgers-Camden may experience as a result of this plan.
6. Many Rutgers facilities in South Jersey are not based in Camden. For instance, the Rutgers Food Innovation Center is located in Bridgeton, and the Rutgers University Pinelands Field Station is located in New Lisbon. What are the plans for these facilities? Please provide a complete list of all facilities currently under the control of Rutgers University that would become part of Rowan.

Breakup of UMDNJ

7. The creation of New Jersey Health Sciences University out of the existing UMDNJ will result in huge changes that have the potential to be disruptive to the Newark-based UMDNJ community. What steps will be taken to avoid negative impacts on the Newark community as the result of changes to UMDNJ and University hospital? Will there be job losses and how will these changes affect workers at University Hospital and UMDNJ? How will the Governor's office ensure that the quality of education for students does not suffer during this transition?
8. How will University Hospital's financial obligations to UMDNJ affect the reorganization and the hospital's ability to provide patient care in future? What entity will be responsible for deferred maintenance, technical upgrades and other costs related to the hospital? Please include relevant financial data, including bond obligations, deferred maintenance, and any technological upgrades that may be vital to maintain the standard of care provided at the facility.
9. How will the state select private contractors to run University Hospital? What criteria will it use to select the contractor? How will the state ensure that this hospital continues to provide an exceptional quality of care for patients?
10. The proposal recommends that UMDNJ's Cancer Institute of New Jersey and the School of Public Health be merged with Rutgers University's New Brunswick and Piscataway campuses. Both of these organizations have facilities in Newark and southern New Jersey as well as other areas across the state. How would the proposed

merger impact the facilities located in regions outside of the New Brunswick-Piscataway area?

I appreciate your timely and complete responses to these questions. As this process moves forward, I look forward to working with you to promote the best interests of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank R. Lautenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.