

ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS NEWS RELEASE



FOR RELEASE:

March 10, 2003

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ASSEMBLY PANEL OKAYS GREENWALD/CONAWAY BILL INCREASING MEDICAID RATE FOR SPECIALIZED PEDIATRIC CARE

*Measure Would Require 100-Percent Reimbursement for Pediatric Rehabilitative Care
In Hospital Settings*

(TRENTON) -- The Assembly Appropriations Committee today released legislation Assemblymen Louis Greenwald and Herb Conaway M.D. sponsored to increase the level of financial compensation for hospitals that specialize in rehabilitative health care services for children.

The measure (A-2553) would require Medicaid to cover 100 percent of reimbursable costs for care provided at pediatric rehabilitation hospitals with 30 or fewer licensed beds.

“By making pediatric rehabilitative hospitals eligible for additional reimbursements, these facilities can continue to provide quality care to children without affecting other services,” said Greenwald (D-Camden). “Charity care or other funding sources used to cover unpaid costs of services for Medicaid patients could be used to expand or improve a hospital’s health care services.”

Currently, pediatric hospitals are reimbursed at a Medicaid fee-for-services rate based on the hospital’s 1999 or 2000 costs.

“There are only a few pediatric rehabilitative care hospitals in New Jersey,” said Conaway (D-Burlington). “These hospitals provide specialized care for children who are recuperating from surgeries or dealing with debilitating diseases. These institutions deserve a more stable funding formula to meet the cost of this specialized care.”

Pediatric rehabilitative care hospitals provide specialized health care services for children afflicted with spina bifida, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, muscular dystrophy, and other conditions.

The committee released the measure unanimously. It now goes to the Assembly Speaker, who decides whether to post it for a floor vote.