

News From Senator Shirley K. Turner



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TURNER STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S CV OF SMOKING BAN AT PARKS AND BEACHES

Says Concur with CV, But Continue Fight to Expand the Ban

TRENTON - Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer/Hunterdon) issued the following statement today in response to Governor Christie's conditional veto of her legislation that would have extended the provisions of the "New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act" to all public parks and beaches throughout the State. The governor's conditional veto would prohibit smoking only at State parks and beaches and leave the decision to ban smoking at municipal parks and beaches to be determined by the municipal and county governing bodies.

"While I am disappointed that the ban will not be extended to all New Jersey parks and beaches, the governor has taken a step in the right direction. Our residents deserve to be able to enjoy our outdoor recreational spaces without the nuisance of second-hand smoke. Our children and families deserve smoke-free public parks and beaches and we should be protecting them from such a health hazard. Additionally, a ban at all parks and beaches will help to keep those spaces safe, clean, and clear of the cigarette litter that poses a danger to our children and the environment."

"Because I believe that the ban should apply to municipal and county parks and beaches, as well not just those under the jurisdiction of the state, I will continue to my fight to expand the ban. I am hopeful that our local governments will take the initiative to implement a ban to ensure that all of our residents benefit from the same protections. I share the governor's abhorrence to smoking, and I continue to believe that it is incumbent upon the state to have a complete ban at all parks and beaches. Smoking-related diseases add to the economic burden on the public health care system; therefore, the state has a justifiable reason to ban smoking at the local level to protect the public health and our taxpayers. We want a healthy state, and we want to discourage everyone from smoking, especially our youth."