



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

I AM PLEASED to present to you The Hastings Center's volume, *Connecting American Values with Health Reform*. The issues that are analyzed in this volume are of enormous importance to New Jersey and to the United States, and they have and will continue to be of great importance to me as governor of New Jersey.

Health care policy is often described as an arena of intense partisan and ideological division. But there are also important areas of consensus that reflect agreement about some basic, core values. Health care reform will be most successful if it draws on these common values.

Both progressives and conservatives want to expand access to care. Everyone recognizes that lack of access for low-income people violates our national commitment to civil rights and that it ultimately threatens the viability of the mixed public-private health insurance system. In 2008, New Jersey passed a major expansion of our FamilyCare program to mandate health coverage of children and to provide free or subsidized health insurance to low- and middle-income families, and this bill received massive Republican and Democratic support.

Both progressives and conservatives want to contain health care costs. Progressives recognize that relentless cost increases will crowd out other social priorities and that low-income people bear the heaviest economic burden when health insurance costs compete against annual raises. I am a proud progressive, but it is because of my core principles that I know we have to act when I see New Jersey's bill for health care now having grown to almost a third of the state budget. I and my administration have worked hard to make progress on reducing health care cost growth, including significant reductions in excess hospital capacity and reforms to the insurance market.

Both progressives and conservatives want to build health care IT infrastructure and recognize that—as with interstate highways (another area of political consensus)—without government intervention, health IT will not be developed. Both progressives and conservatives understand the compelling moral and policy case for investing in prevention and not just in illness treatment.

These themes represent major common ground from which to work toward national health reform.

The essays included in this book can help to elucidate the beliefs that we share, and where disagreements over principle are more intractable. But to make progress on the areas on which we agree, we will also need to overcome the sense that health reform is a zero-sum game in which one ideology and one party can only win if the other loses. It is my hope that this volume can help us to recognize that getting health care right reflects American values.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon S. Corzine".

Jon S. Corzine
Governor
State of New Jersey