

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
SENATE BILL NO. 499
(Second Reprint)**

Today I am pleased to sign Senate Bill No. 499 (Second Reprint), which will streamline the process for determining Medicaid eligibility. I applaud the sponsors of this bill for recognizing the importance of creating a consumer-friendly platform that will encourage increased enrollment, foster continuity of care for the Medicaid population and allow for more efficient data tracking. The Department of Human Services (the "Department") has already undertaken efforts to modernize the enrollment process, and this bill will enable the Department to develop a more comprehensive solution moving forward.

My signature today follows my approval of P.L.2019, C.141, which enabled the creation of a state-based exchange and will require integration between the exchange and the Medicaid eligibility platform. As I stated when I signed that legislation in June of this year, a state exchange is a critical and necessary step towards improving access to affordable health care for New Jerseyans. Therefore, it is my intention that the bill be implemented in conjunction with ongoing efforts to establish a state-based exchange and that the exchange and Medicaid coordinate, as required under the exchange law.

I am confident that the exchange law, along with this bill, will help maximize Medicaid enrollment and guarantee that every resident has access to the care they deserve. I encourage the Departments of Human Services and Banking and Insurance to continue coordinating efforts to ensure streamlined access to programs and health care coverage.

Date: August 23, 2019

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor