



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**GARY S. SCHAER**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 36TH DISTRICT  
PARTS OF BERGEN, ESSEX AND  
PASSAIC COUNTIES  
ONE HOWE AVENUE, SUITE 302  
PASSAIC, NJ 07055  
(973) 249-3665

COMMITTEES  
CHAIRMAN,  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
AND INSURANCE  
VICE-CHAIRMAN,  
BUDGET  
MEMBER,  
STATE GOVERNMENT

March 21, 2011

Dear 36<sup>th</sup> District Resident:

Thank you for your email regarding public employees in New Jersey. I strongly believe in collective bargaining and have signed a pledge to uphold that right.

As Vice Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, I appreciate the enormity of the fiscal challenges not only facing New Jersey state government but every resident. I also recognize that, while our pension system will not implode today, present projections do not meet the state's obligations to current employees and retirees. That does not mean, however, we should abandon long held traditions of collective bargaining in favor of allocating benefits by legislative fiat.

I was pleased to hear Governor Christie supports collective bargaining. Nonetheless, I was also disappointed to learn the state's largest public employee union offered considerable concessions towards paying for employee health benefits and the Governor's representatives responded by saying those negotiations were off the table.

It is my hope that all pension and health benefit changes will be decided at the bargaining table rather than in the legislative chambers.

Once again, thank you for your email. If there is any other way in which I can be of assistance to you on this or another issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Schaer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary S. Schaer  
Assemblyman, 36<sup>th</sup> District