To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 1336 and 2002 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill requires that each physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery in this State complete a survey detailing numerous aspects of their current professional practice and future career plans. Data collected from the survey would be made available to the government, medical professional societies, medical schools, and other organizations representing health care providers or involved with physician workforce planning.

New Jersey has long enjoyed a national reputation for excellence in medicine. Distinguished physicians from around the world select our State to build their practices, and enjoy close contact with our renowned network of universities, hospitals, and laboratories. As a result, New Jersey residents take daily comfort in knowing that the toughest medical problems can be treated by experts that live and work in their own communities. Unfortunately, this bill would saddle our physicians with a new regulatory burden that could divert their attention away from the care of our families and neighbors. Instead, a more prudent approach is to allow for elective participation in the survey.
Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 1336 and 2002 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 10: Delete “physicians shall be required” and insert “shall be made available to physicians”

Page 2, Section 1, Line 10: After “complete” insert “on a voluntary basis”

Page 3, Section 2, Line 1: Delete “require” and insert “make available to”

Page 3, Section 2, Line 3: Delete “a condition for” and insert “part of the”

Page 3, Section 2, Line 3: After “registration” insert “process”

Page 3, Section 2, Line 4: Delete “to complete an” and insert “a voluntary”

Page 3, Section 2, Line 8: After “on” insert “whether the physician chooses to complete the survey, or”

Respectfully,
/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

[seal]

Attest:
/s/ Charles B. McKenna
Chief Counsel to the Governor