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### **City Administration Opposes Amendment adding Trenton to the Urban Hope Act**

**TRENTON**—The City of Trenton administration opposes the amendment adding Trenton, New Jersey to the Urban Hope Act (assembly bill 4426, senate companion bill 3173). The bill, scheduled for action in Assembly and Senate voting sessions *today*, if passed will drain crucial resources from the Trenton Public School District. The administration learned about the amendment - which adds Trenton to the bill - from Trenton stakeholders who were deeply concerned and discouraged that legislators added the City without the administration's knowledge. Clearly, an issue of this magnitude is too important to be rushed through the legislative process, or done in a way that excludes weigh-in from the City's administration.

After carefully reviewing information provided by the Trenton Education Association, which is included generally in this press release; the administration is opposed to this initiative. First, limited school funding will follow the participating students to the proposed renaissance schools. Leaving many Trenton residents without guaranteed employment, the renaissance schools will promote the privatization of workforce. Second, the bill permits the School Develop Authority and districts to transfer public funded items like facilities and land to private entities. Trenton Public Schools currently have initiatives in place to improve our schools. The passage of this amendment would deplete vital resources for the initiatives.

Finally, the implementation of this bill may force the doors of existing neighborhood schools to close, while the district is already struggling with flat funding. Rather than take money out of the district, the SDA should restart the dozens of stalled and shovel-ready projects that it has abandoned in the city. Rather than further segregating the city and schools - making the children more vulnerable to failure, the city must allow its initiatives in place to improve Trenton schools. In short, the administration, which was never included at any level, is opposed to the amendments to the Urban Hope Act.

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