

9:3A-15 to 9:3A-17
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2013 **CHAPTER:** 281

NJSA: 9:3A-15 to 9:3A-17 (Establishes "Mom2Mom Peer Support Program" telephone helpline)

BILL NO: A4339 (Substituted for S2918)

SPONSOR(S) Riley and others

DATE INTRODUCED: September 9, 2013

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Women and Children

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 13, 2014

SENATE: January 13, 2014

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 17, 2014

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second Reprint enacted) Yes

A4339

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S2918

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

LAW/RWH

P.L.2013, CHAPTER 281, *approved January 17, 2014*
Assembly, No. 4339 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program”
2 telephone helpline, and supplementing Title 9 of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 ²**[1.** The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The ¹**[New Jersey]**¹ Department of Children and Families,
10 in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers,
11 the State University, is currently operating a free and confidential
12 “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and
13 responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and
14 their families;

15 b. The “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline provides
16 peer support, clinical services, telephone assessments, a network of
17 service providers, live chat, and support groups;

18 c. Since its inception in 2010, the helpline has fielded over
19 28,000 calls from mothers, caregivers, and their families, with a 30
20 percent increase in call volume projected; and

21 d. The “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline is
22 currently funded from the ¹**[New Jersey]**¹ Department of Children
23 and Families’ State appropriation for children with special needs,
24 and it is appropriate that the helpline be codified in State law and
25 have a separate annual appropriation.]²

26

27 ²**[2.]** 1.² a. The Department of Children and Families shall
28 establish, in coordination with University Behavioral HealthCare of
29 Rutgers, the State University ², or another entity², a toll-free
30 “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline ², or a similar
31 helpline².

32 b. The helpline shall be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days
33 per week, and shall respond to calls from mothers, caregivers, and
34 their families. The staff of the helpline shall seek to identify the
35 mothers, children, caregivers, and their families who should be

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted November 25, 2013.

²Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations January 13, 2014.

1 referred to further support and counseling services, and provide
2 informational resources.

3 c. The peer staff shall be trained by University Behavioral
4 ²**[Healthcare]** HealthCare² of Rutgers, the State University ², or
5 another entity,² and, to the greatest extent possible, shall be mothers
6 of children with special needs, who are:

7 (1) familiar with developmental disabilities, brain injury,
8 behavioral healthcare issues, medical illness, cancer, and the
9 emotional and mental health burden and psychological tension,
10 depression, and anxieties unique to these mothers, children, and
11 their families, or

12 (2) trained to provide reciprocal peer support services involving
13 children with special needs and family life, mental health, personal
14 stress management, and other emotional or psychological disorders
15 or conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the personal
16 and related well-being of children, mothers, caregivers, and their
17 families.

18 d. The Department of Children and Families and University
19 Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University ², or another
20 entity,² shall provide for the confidentiality of the names of the
21 callers, the information discussed, and any referrals for further peer
22 support or counseling; provided, however, that the Department of
23 Children and Families and Rutgers, the State University ², or
24 another entity,² may establish guidelines providing for the tracking
25 of any person who exhibits a severe emotional or psychological
26 disorder or condition which the operator handling the call
27 reasonably believes might result in harm to the child or mother or
28 any other person.

29

30 ²**[3.] 2.**² University Behavioral ²**[Healthcare]** HealthCare² of
31 Rutgers, the State University ², or another entity,² shall maintain a
32 list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers
33 throughout the State, and shall provide case management services to
34 ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing
35 counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey. The continuum
36 of services shall utilize applicable State and federal guidelines
37 while providing ongoing peer support.

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39 ²**[4.] 3.**² In establishing the helpline authorized under the
40 provisions of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
41 Legislature as this bill) the Commissioner of Children and Families
42 and University Behavioral ²**[Healthcare]** HealthCare² of Rutgers,
43 the State University ², or another entity,² shall consult on an annual
44 basis with the Division of Developmental Disabilities ¹**[of] in**¹ the
45 Department of Human Services, ¹the Division of Children's System
46 of Care in the Department of Children and Families,¹ the United
47 States Department of Health and Human Services, ¹**[the Division of**

1 Developmental Disabilities Healthcare Network, at least two State
2 developmental centers,¹ and at least two State recognized child
3 advocacy groups.

4

5 ²[5. There shall be appropriated annually from the General Fund
6 to the Department of Children and Families a sum sufficient for the
7 maintenance of the helpline.]²

8

9 ²[6.] 4.² This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth
10 month next following the date of enactment, but the Department of
11 Children and Families and Rutgers, the State University ², or
12 another entity.² may take such anticipatory administrative action in
13 advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this
14 act.

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19 Establishes “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” telephone
20 helpline.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4339

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman N.Munoz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” telephone helpline.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/19/2013)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program”
2 telephone helpline, and supplementing Title 9 of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, in
10 conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the
11 State University, is currently operating a free and confidential
12 “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and
13 responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and
14 their families;

15 b. The “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline provides
16 peer support, clinical services, telephone assessments, a network of
17 service providers, live chat, and support groups;

18 c. Since its inception in 2010, the helpline has fielded over
19 28,000 calls from mothers, caregivers, and their families, with a 30
20 percent increase in call volume projected; and

21 d. The “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline is
22 currently funded from the New Jersey Department of Children and
23 Families’ State appropriation for children with special needs, and it
24 is appropriate that the helpline be codified in State law and have a
25 separate annual appropriation.

26
27 2. a. The Department of Children and Families shall establish,
28 in coordination with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers,
29 the State University, a toll-free “Mom2Mom Peer Support
30 Program” helpline.

31 b. The helpline shall be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days
32 per week, and shall respond to calls from mothers, caregivers, and
33 their families. The staff of the helpline shall seek to identify the
34 mothers, children, caregivers, and their families who should be
35 referred to further support and counseling services, and provide
36 informational resources.

37 c. The peer staff shall be trained by University Behavioral
38 Healthcare of Rutgers, the State University and, to the greatest
39 extent possible, shall be mothers of children with special needs,
40 who are:

41 (1) familiar with developmental disabilities, brain injury,
42 behavioral healthcare issues, medical illness, cancer, and the
43 emotional and mental health burden and psychological tension,
44 depression, and anxieties unique to these mothers, children, and
45 their families, or

46 (2) trained to provide reciprocal peer support services involving
47 children with special needs and family life, mental health, personal
48 stress management, and other emotional or psychological disorders

1 or conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the personal
2 and related well-being of children, mothers, caregivers, and their
3 families.

4 d. The Department of Children and Families and University
5 Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University shall
6 provide for the confidentiality of the names of the callers, the
7 information discussed, and any referrals for further peer support or
8 counseling; provided, however, that the Department of Children and
9 Families and Rutgers, the State University may establish guidelines
10 providing for the tracking of any person who exhibits a severe
11 emotional or psychological disorder or condition which the operator
12 handling the call reasonably believes might result in harm to the
13 child or mother or any other person.

14

15 3. University Behavioral Healthcare of Rutgers, the State
16 University shall maintain a list of credentialed resources and
17 behavioral health care providers throughout the State, and shall
18 provide case management services to ensure that mothers, children,
19 and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of
20 care in New Jersey. The continuum of services shall utilize
21 applicable State and federal guidelines while providing ongoing
22 peer support.

23

24 4. In establishing the helpline authorized under the provisions
25 of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
26 as this bill) the Commissioner of Children and Families and
27 University Behavioral Healthcare of Rutgers, the State University
28 shall consult on an annual basis with the Division of Developmental
29 Disabilities of the Department of Human Services, the United States
30 Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of
31 Developmental Disabilities Healthcare Network, at least two State
32 developmental centers, and at least two State recognized child
33 advocacy groups.

34

35 5. There shall be appropriated annually from the General Fund
36 to the Department of Children and Families a sum sufficient for the
37 maintenance of the helpline.

38

39 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
40 next following the date of enactment, but the Department of
41 Children and Families and Rutgers, the State University may take
42 such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall
43 be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

This bill establishes the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and their families. The helpline is administered by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF), in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University.

The bill provides for the training of helpline staff; the establishment of a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey; and consultation with various State agencies to ensure the quality of the assistance provided by the helpline program.

The bill also provides for an annual appropriation of a sum from the General Fund to DCF sufficient for the maintenance of the helpline.

ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4339

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 25, 2013

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 4339.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and their families. The helpline is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University.

The bill provides for the training of helpline staff; the establishment of a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey; and consultation with various State agencies to ensure the quality of the assistance provided by the helpline program.

The bill also provides for an annual appropriation of a sum from the General Fund to DCF sufficient for the maintenance of the helpline.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to require the Commissioner of Children and Families and the University Behavioral Healthcare of Rutgers, the State University to consult with the Division of Children's System of Care in DCF, to reflect the division's responsibility of providing services to children with developmental disabilities (up to age of 21). The committee also amended the bill to remove references to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Healthcare Network and State developmental centers.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4339

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 27, 2013

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” telephone hotline.
- Type of Impact:** No impact.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	No change.	No change.	No change.

- The bill would not require any change in the current program, so would not have an effect of State costs.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 4339 (1R) of 2013 establishes the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs and their families. The helpline is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University.

The bill provides for the training of helpline staff; the establishment of a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey; and consultation with various State agencies to ensure the quality of the assistance provided by the helpline program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services does not believe that the bill will have any effect on State spending. The Mom2Mom support helpline is currently operated by University Behavioral Health Care, with grant funding from the Division of Children's System of Care in the DCF. The provisions of the bill describe the program as it is currently operated, and would therefore have no effect on the amount of funding required.

The bill may limit the DCF's ability to substantially change or eliminate the Mom2Mom program, which could have fiscal implications if such a plan were contemplated. The Office of Legislative Services is unaware of any such proposal, however, and so does not anticipate that the bill will change State expenditures in the foreseeable future.

Section: *Human Services*

Analyst: *David Drescher*
 Associate Fiscal Analyst

Approved: *David J. Rosen*
 Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 2918

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 29, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Whelan

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” telephone helpline.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/6/2013)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program”
2 telephone helpline, and supplementing Title 9 of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, in
10 conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the
11 State University, is currently operating a free and confidential
12 “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and
13 responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and
14 their families;

15 b. The “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline provides
16 peer support, clinical services, telephone assessments, a network of
17 service providers, live chat, and support groups;

18 c. Since its inception in 2010, the helpline has fielded over
19 28,000 calls from mothers, caregivers, and their families, with a 30
20 percent increase in call volume projected; and

21 d. The “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline is
22 currently funded from the New Jersey Department of Children and
23 Families’ State appropriation for children with special needs, and it
24 is appropriate that the helpline be codified in State law and have a
25 separate annual appropriation.

26
27 2. a. The Department of Children and Families shall establish,
28 in coordination with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers,
29 the State University, a toll-free “Mom2Mom Peer Support
30 Program” helpline.

31 b. The helpline shall be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days
32 per week, and shall respond to calls from mothers, caregivers, and
33 their families. The staff of the helpline shall seek to identify the
34 mothers, children, caregivers, and their families who should be
35 referred to further support and counseling services, and provide
36 informational resources.

37 c. The peer staff shall be trained by University Behavioral
38 Healthcare of Rutgers, the State University and, to the greatest
39 extent possible, shall be mothers of children with special needs,
40 who are:

41 (1) familiar with developmental disabilities, brain injury,
42 behavioral healthcare issues, medical illness, cancer, and the
43 emotional and mental health burden and psychological tension,
44 depression, and anxieties unique to these mothers, children, and
45 their families, or

46 (2) trained to provide reciprocal peer support services involving
47 children with special needs and family life, mental health, personal
48 stress management, and other emotional or psychological disorders

1 or conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the personal
2 and related well-being of children, mothers, caregivers, and their
3 families.

4 d. The Department of Children and Families and University
5 Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University shall
6 provide for the confidentiality of the names of the callers, the
7 information discussed, and any referrals for further peer support or
8 counseling; provided, however, that the Department of Children and
9 Families and Rutgers, the State University may establish guidelines
10 providing for the tracking of any person who exhibits a severe
11 emotional or psychological disorder or condition which the operator
12 handling the call reasonably believes might result in harm to the
13 child or mother or any other person.

14

15 3. University Behavioral Healthcare of Rutgers, the State
16 University shall maintain a list of credentialed resources and
17 behavioral health care providers throughout the State, and shall
18 provide case management services to ensure that mothers, children,
19 and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of
20 care in New Jersey. The continuum of services shall utilize
21 applicable State and federal guidelines while providing ongoing
22 peer support.

23

24 4. In establishing the helpline authorized under the provisions
25 of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
26 as this bill) the Commissioner of Children and Families and
27 University Behavioral Healthcare of Rutgers, the State University
28 shall consult on an annual basis with the Division of Developmental
29 Disabilities of the Department of Human Services, the United States
30 Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of
31 Developmental Disabilities Healthcare Network, at least two State
32 developmental centers, and at least two State recognized child
33 advocacy groups.

34

35 5. There shall be appropriated annually from the General Fund
36 to the Department of Children and Families a sum sufficient for the
37 maintenance of the helpline.

38

39 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
40 next following the date of enactment, but the Department of
41 Children and Families and Rutgers, the State University may take
42 such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall
43 be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

This bill establishes the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and their families. The helpline is administered by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF), in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University.

The bill provides for the training of helpline staff; the establishment of a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey; and consultation with various State agencies to ensure the quality of the assistance provided by the helpline program.

The bill also provides for an annual appropriation of a sum from the General Fund to DCF sufficient for the maintenance of the helpline.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2918

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2013

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with amendments Senate Bill No. 2918.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs, and their families. The helpline is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University.

The bill provides for the training of helpline staff; the establishment of a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey; and consultation with various State agencies to ensure the quality of the assistance provided by the helpline program.

The bill also provides for an annual appropriation of a sum from the General Fund to DCF sufficient for the maintenance of the helpline.

The committee amended the bill to require the Commissioner of Children and Families and the University Behavioral Healthcare of Rutgers, the State University to consult with the Division of Children's System of Care in DCF, to reflect the division's responsibility of providing services to children with developmental disabilities (up to age of 21). The committee also amended the bill to remove references to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Healthcare Network and State developmental centers.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2918 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 27, 2013

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” telephone hotline.
- Type of Impact:** No impact.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	No change.	No change.	No change.

- The bill would not require any change in the current program, so would not have an effect of State costs.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 2918 (1R) of 2013 establishes the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, which receives and responds to calls from mothers of children with special needs and their families. The helpline is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University.

The bill provides for the training of helpline staff; the establishment of a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey; and consultation with various State agencies to ensure the quality of the assistance provided by the helpline program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services does not believe that the bill will have any effect on State spending. The Mom2Mom support helpline is currently operated by University Behavioral Health Care, with grant funding from the Division of Children's System of Care in the DCF. The provisions of the bill describe the program as it is currently operated, and would therefore have no effect on the amount of funding required.

The bill may limit the DCF's ability to substantially change or eliminate the Mom2Mom program, which could have fiscal implications if such a plan were contemplated. The Office of Legislative Services is unaware of any such proposal, however, and so does not anticipate that the bill will change State expenditures in the foreseeable future.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: David Drescher
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4339
(First Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4339 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill codifies the establishment of an existing toll-free helpline, the "Mom2Mom Peer Support Program" helpline, currently operated by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families ("DCF") in conjunction with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers University. The helpline provides peer support for mothers of children with special needs, in addition to clinical services, telephone assessments, a network of service providers, live chat, and support groups. The bill requires DCF to continue the operation of the helpline with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers University and requires an annual appropriation from the General Fund for the maintenance of the helpline.

This bill emphasizes the critical importance of a peer support helpline to assist mothers of children with special needs. Indeed, the "Mom2Mom Peer Support Program" helpline plays an important role in my Administration's efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and families in our State, and, since its 2010 establishment, has fielded over 28,000 calls from mothers, caregivers, and their families.

I applaud the sponsors for their efforts to facilitate the continued operation of a peer support helpline for mothers of children with special needs. However, the bill's requirement for an annual appropriation from the General Fund to DCF for the maintenance of the helpline is unwarranted. Since becoming Governor, I have repeatedly called for responsible budgeting that carefully calibrates revenues and expenditures for adoption

of a balanced budget through the annual appropriations act at the beginning of each fiscal year. Regrettably, and notwithstanding my calls for fiscal restraint, the Legislature has continued to propose expenditures outside of the State Budget. The required annual appropriation proposed in Assembly Bill No. 4339 is another such example.

As noted previously, my Administration has fully supported and funded the "Mom2Mom Peer Support Program" helpline since 2010 without the need for an appropriation by the Legislature outside of the annual appropriations process. Accordingly, I recommend language enabling the maintenance of this important program into the future, while simultaneously eliminating any potential circumvention of the budget process or unnecessary burden on the taxpayers of New Jersey.

I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4339 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Section 1, Lines 8-25:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 27:</u>	Delete "2." and insert "1."
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 29:</u>	After "University" insert "or another entity"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 30:</u>	After "helpline" insert "or similar helpline"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 38:</u>	Delete "Healthcare" and insert "HealthCare"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 38:</u>	After "University" insert "or another entity"
<u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 9:</u>	After "University" insert "or another entity"
<u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 13:</u>	After "University" insert "or another entity"
<u>Page 3, Section 3, Line 19:</u>	Delete "3." and insert "2."
<u>Page 3, Section 3, Line 20:</u>	After "University" insert "or another entity"
<u>Page 3, Section 4, Line 28:</u>	Delete "4." and insert "3."
<u>Page 3, Section 4, Line 31:</u>	Delete "Healthcare" and insert "HealthCare"

Page 3, Section 4, Line 31:

After "State University"
insert "or another entity"

Page 3, Section 5, Lines 40-42:

Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 6, Line 44:

Delete "6." and insert "4."

Page 3, Section 6, Line 46:

After "University" insert
"or another entity"

Respectfully,

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino

Chief Counsel to the Governor