



**NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**MICHAEL J. DOHERTY**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 23RD DISTRICT  
WARREN AND HUNTERDON COUNTIES  
127 BELVIDERE AVENUE  
SECOND FLOOR  
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882  
PHONE: (908) 835-0552  
EMAIL: AsmDoherty@njleg.org

COMMITTEE  
LABOR  
APPROPRIATIONS

August 20, 2008

Commissioner Heather Howard  
Department of Health and Senior Services  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Howard,

It has been brought to my attention by one of my constituents that New Jersey's Medicaid program spent over \$10 million in 2007 on prescriptions for Abilify, Seroquel, and Zyprexa for children under 18 years of age.

I find this particularly disturbing given that to my understanding all three drugs carry a "black box" warning and do not carry FDA approval for children under 18 years of age.

I would like to know when the policy decision was made, and what the rationale was, for the state to pay for prescriptions of these drugs for children under the age of 18. Please also advise where it was memorialized, and if possible send a copy of such.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Doherty".

Michael J. Doherty  
Member of the General Assembly

MJD/mbw