

July 1, 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL christopher.porrino@dol.lps.state.nj.us

Attorney General Christopher Porrino
25 West Market St.
Trenton, New Jersey

Re: State Government Shutdown Issues

Dear General Porrino:

We write on behalf of the New Jersey Education Association, the Communications Workers of America and the New Jersey Working Families Alliance. We have learned that, earlier today, July 1, political attack ads were posted at numerous state government offices and state facilities, and understand that this was done by State executive branch employees. An illustrative example of such an ad appears here:



We have reviewed the provisions of Executive Order 228 (Christie), Section 4 of which enumerates a variety of authorized expenditures to protect life, safety, and property. The printing and posting of neutral signs stating the fact of a facility's shutdown might be appropriate.

What is wholly inappropriate is any action designed to engage in taxpayer-funded political attacks against people with whom the Executive Order's author may have a policy disagreement, including the

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printing of, and the labor involved in the posting of, these signs. The Governor has been quoted, at http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/07/christie_assails_dem_lawmaker_for_speakers_shutdown.html (last visited Jul. 1, 2017), as admitting to authorizing the printing and posting of these improper political advertisements.

Accordingly, the undersigned organizations DEMAND that all such signs, without exception, be taken down within 2 hours of your receipt of this letter, and that these signs be taken into custody by the Division of Law and preserved as evidence for use in future litigation or administrative proceedings.

Pending the removal of those signs, my clients further DEMAND that they be allowed to post signs of similar size, with messaging of their choosing, in the same place where the present attack ads are posted, and that you order that there be no interference with the posting of those signs, because to do otherwise would constitute content and viewpoint based discrimination contrary to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 6 of the New Jersey Constitution.

If you are unwilling or unable to comply with these demands, kindly notify Flavio L. Komuves, Esq., of Zazzali Fagella Nowak Kleinbaum & Friedman, at 609-216-5014, who is coordinating with all of above organizations. In such case, or if he does not hear from you, we will be contacting the Mercer County Sheriff's Office at a time of our choosing to make contact with the emergency duty judge and pursue an appropriate resolution of this matter.

Very truly yours,

NEW JERSEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

By: Edward Richardson
Edward Richardson

NEW JERSEY WORKING FAMILIES ALLIANCE

By: Analilia Meija
Analilia Meija

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

By: Netty Rosenstein
Netty Rosenstein

