

VIEWPOINT

Woodbury, N.J., Sunday, May 15, 2011.

Gloucester County Times

Poor women lose with Christie cuts

To the Editor:

On the same page of the *Times* on May 12 were two articles that should have angered women greatly.

The first article, at the top of the page under a big headline, reported that Gov. Chris Christie recently met with "an intimate group of wealthy donors" in Boston, and was slated for another fundraiser this month in Philadelphia, where those in attendance are expected to donate up to \$25,000 each to the Republican Party in New Jersey.

At the bottom of the page, another article reported that a New Jersey senator said that "six women's health clinics have closed" in New Jersey since Christie eliminated state funding for them.

According to state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, D-



Associated Press file photo

State Sen. Loretta Weinberg, with Assemblywoman Linda Stender, right, criticizes Gov. Chris Christie's funding priorities for women during a May 11 press conference.

Bergen, the closures mean that the women previously served "are unable to access basic health care services like cancer screening, STD testing, pre-and post-natal care, and yes, contraception."

Women of affluence,

such as Christie's wife and other female members of his family, have access to top quality gynecological care.

If a woman calls the office of a gynecologist for an appointment, the first question asked is, "Do

you have insurance?" If a woman has insurance, she will be fortunate to get an appointment sometime in the next month, or perhaps two months. Without insurance, she will be told that the practice is accepting no new patients.

Family planning clinics such as those the state is no longer funding use nurse practitioners for many of their services. Physicians supervise, but screenings are done by technicians. When women are forced to use hospital emergency rooms for their care, the costs are much higher.

Gov. Christie's treatment of poor women reveals a pompous, selfish, smug individual who hides behind his Catholic values.

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