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MEDIA RELEASE

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Joint Statement on Pending State Health Benefit Program Premium Increases

Mayors Mark Gyorfy (Morris Township), Bob Conley (Madison), Thad Kobylarz (Chatham Borough), Ashley Felice (Chatham Township), Tim Dougherty (Morristown), Jason Karr (Morris Plains)

“Taxpayers and public employees across New Jersey bear the burden of increased costs to public goods and services year after year. Municipalities throughout the state have faced daunting challenges over the past few years to keep public finances in order, from the unforeseen and complex impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the subsequent cost increases for basic services as a result of inflation. The substantial premium increases of over 20 percent proposed for State Health Benefits Program participants is yet another burden taxpayers and public employees will be left to carry and will leave many towns grappling with the potential for layoffs, the cancellation of important public projects, and/or tax increases.

“With a record \$6.8 billion surplus in this year’s state budget, we, as representatives of over 80,000 southeast Morris residents and 700 public employees, call upon lawmakers in Trenton to provide stability and relief by a reducing the proposed premium increases to our public health benefits.”

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