

Senator Tom Kean Calls On New Jersey's United States Senators To Restart Health Insurance Reform

TRENTON, NJ (March 4, 2010) - Senator Tom Kean (R-Westfield) today released the following statement on health insurance reform efforts in Washington:

"After months of debate, numerous proposals and public meetings, it is clear the final national healthcare package is wrong for New Jersey. Our United States Senators should finally listen to the majority of New Jerseyans and support a fresh approach to reforming our health insurance industry. That starts with voting 'No' on the proposal working through the reconciliation process now.

"Right now Washington is broken, divided by partisan politics and special interests. Government does not have to operate this way. Since his inauguration, I have worked with Governor Christie and other leaders to develop a bipartisan plan to reduce the size and scope of our government. We are making real progress to make New Jersey more affordable for the middle class and hold Trenton accountable for every dollar it spends. Recently, the State Senate unanimously passed a series of public employee benefit reforms that will bring healthcare benefits more in line with the private sector and save taxpayers at least \$300 million immediately.

"In Trenton, working together we have shown that change is something people can believe in. It's time our United States Senators bring the same common-sense approach to Washington."

Assemblyman Wisniewski Elected Chairman of New Jersey Democratic State Committee

(TRENTON, NJ) - The members of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee (NJDC) elected Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski as Chairman to succeed Assemblyman Joseph P. Cryan at their reorganization meeting Wednesday evening at Forsgate Country Club in Jamesburg. Chairman Wisniewski, who was elected to serve a two-year term, issued the following statement:

"I am deeply honored that the members of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee have chosen me to lead our party for the next two years.

"I am excited to take on the responsibility of reinvigorating our

party. We are all disappointed in the outcome of the election last November and know that we cannot allow a repeat in 2010.

"In order to be successful, Democrats must continue to build upon the great efforts of Chairman Cryan to grow and diversify our party. Under Chairman Cryan's leadership, Democrats welcomed a record number of new voters to our party and worked hard to make sure that our party is as diverse as the state we represent.

"We must remember that New Jerseyans voted overwhelmingly for change in 2006 and 2008 and



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Let's Talk Communism

By Ewa Bronowicz

Despite New York City's paralysis due to the snow storm that hit the city on Friday, February 26th, causing school closings and heavy transportation delays, Columbia University's symposium, titled "After Communism: Achievement and Disillusionment since 1989," was on, and with not one empty seat remaining. Then again, it was mostly Eastern Europeans, if not Poles, who filled those seats, and Poles, according to the stereotype, have seen much worse.

The multi-day symposium brought together public intellectuals, policy makers, cultural figures, dissidents, and academics from both sides of the Atlantic to examine the global meaning of the 1989 revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe, the legacies of communism as well as the controversial

age of "post-communism."

The opening symposium, called "What was communism and why did it end?," consisted of three panel speakers: Archie Brown, emeritus professor of politics at Oxford University, Vlad Muresan, professor of American Studies at Babeş-Bolyai University, and Adam Michnik, whom the moderator and vice president of the Romanian Cultural Institute, Mircea Mihaies, introduced as "the hero."

Archie Brown's answer to the panel's question was that the most crucial element that led to the end of communism happened in Moscow and through Gorbachev. Brown acknowledged that the Pope, President Reagan, and a few lucky Eastern Europeans' exposure to the West all played an important

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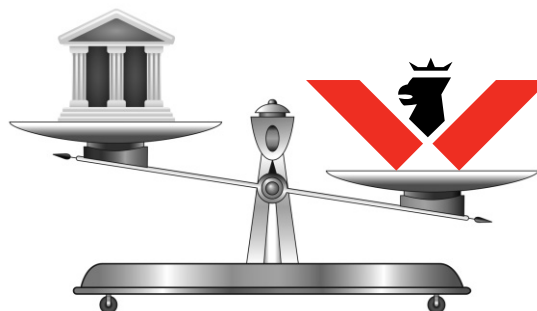
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