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June 23, 2026

The Honorable Governor Mikie Sherrill
Office of the Governor
P O Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Sherrill,

As a longstanding New Jersey resident who cares deeply about my state and its future, I write today to ask you to please give your serious consideration and **approval to opting New Jersey into the Federal Tax Credit for Scholarships.**

As I am sure you are aware, the federal tax credit legislation states that:

By January 1 of each calendar year, each state that voluntarily elects to participate in the Federal Tax Credit Scholarship program will be required to provide the Secretary of the Treasury with a list of the SGOs that meet the program requirements and are located in the state. SGOs will be required to use donations for which federal tax credits were awarded to provide scholarships for eligible students within the state that recognized the SGOs for these purposes.

Governors (or other individuals, agencies, or entities specified in state law) are responsible for preparing lists of SGOs within their states and remitting the lists to the Secretary of the Treasury. Should a state choose to participate in the tax credit scholarship program, the list of SGOs submitted by the state must include a certification that the individual, agency, or entity submitting the list on behalf of the state is authorized to do so.

The statutory language does not specify who must provide such certification.

Please note that Tri-County Scholarship Fund has been an established SGO in New Jersey for 45 years; in that time providing \$50 million in scholarships to over 40,000 financially disadvantaged K-12th grade New Jersey students, and operating with the highest Not for Profit Rating by Charity Navigator.

As you know, participation in the tax credit program is voluntary. Should New Jersey elect NOT to participate, taxpayers in New Jersey will still be eligible to receive federal tax credits for contributions to SGOs in OTHER states. But families in *nonparticipating* states will not be eligible to receive such scholarships. This simply means that our New Jersey children will not be eligible to benefit from the generosity of our residents, and hundreds of millions in tax credit dollars that would otherwise be able to help New Jersey children will instead LEAVE our state.

Why the Board of Trustees at Tri-County Scholarship Fund and I urge you to "opt-in" New Jersey for the federal tax credit:

- The federal tax credit will benefit ALL Kindergarten through 12th grade children in the state with family incomes at or below 300% of the median income in their own zip code. That represents almost ALL children in the state.
- The tax credit will generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually to help close the education gap for our children.
- BOTH public and independent school children will benefit.

- These funds will be raised at NO cost to New Jersey taxpayers or school boards. This tax credit represents NET NEW MONEY for NJ families – for the benefit of the children who would not otherwise be able to afford educational enrichments and enhancements.
- The tax credit funds can be applied for a full range of educational enrichments; from Special Ed to music classes and SAT prep, to tuition assistance, language lessons, sports uniforms, to after-school tutoring and extended care.

I am familiar with the provisions of the tax credit in my capacity as the President of Tri-County Scholarship Fund, which is an accredited 501(c)(3) SGO, providing educational opportunity to inner-city and other financially disadvantaged New Jersey children since 1981. The Tri-County Board of Trustees and I are confident the federal tax credit will close the education gap for thousands more New Jersey children. We are further persuaded on this point knowing that the highly regarded organization, *Democrats for Education Reform* is strongly in favor of the federal tax credit.

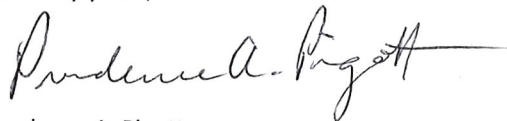
Finally, I will be happy to discuss this matter with you should you need more background. I would also like to invite you to join us as our guest at *Tri-County Scholarship Fund's 45th Anniversary Awards Gala* on November 2, 2026, at The Legacy Castle in Pompton Plains NJ, honoring three distinguished New Jersey leaders:

- Deidre Meehan, Worldwide VP & General Counsel for J&J Pharmaceuticals
- Lindsay Hans, Co-President of Merrill Wealth Management
- The Most Reverend Bishop Kevin Sweeney, Bishop of Paterson

Proceeds will benefit the over 1,000 students to whom Tri-County Scholarship Fund has promised scholarships for the upcoming school year. With over 800 guests, The Tri-County Annual Awards Gala is routinely the largest non-political fundraiser in the state each year. You will be able to see for yourself the impact we have made on these students through our program and the generosity of our donors.

Thank you for your consideration of the federal tax credit which we believe is a win-win-win-WIN for all the children of New Jersey and for the future of our great state.

Sincerely yours,



Prudence A. Pigott
President, Tri-County Scholarship Fund