

Assemblywoman Jones Submitted Testimony to Governor Murphy's NJ EDA Task Force

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide comments with respect to the impact New Jersey tax incentives have had on our communities. I regret that I am unable to attend the public hearing and deliver to my comments in person.

As you have heard and will hear later, the impact of the Grow New Jersey tax credits and related incentive programs has been transformative to the City of Camden and it should be used as a tool for other distressed municipalities like Trenton and Paterson, who deserve an opportunity to revitalize their cities. While much work remains, the positive results are unmistakable.

With that said, what I would like to submit today is some very troubling information regarding Teva Pharmaceuticals and the negative consequences that company is having upon the families of New Jersey through its opioid business.

It is inconceivable to me that New Jersey and Governor Murphy would give \$40 million to a company to relocate to New Jersey where it has been documented that they are colluding and conspiring to sell opioids and other drugs that have killed tens of thousands, including perhaps thousands alone in New Jersey. The value of the precious lives lost as a result of the drugs peddled by this company cannot be calculated.

Today, I am sending a letter to the Attorney General, the Comptroller and the U.S. Attorney asking for an immediate investigation with respect to Teva Pharmaceuticals and its tax credit application. I am enclosing a copy for your review.

Much attention has been focused on Camden, but one thing is true, none of those companies are in the opioid drug business killing our children and destroying our families. It is morally wrong that the State of New Jersey and Governor Murphy have supported and continue to support this company. I am asking for the appropriate law enforcement agency to intervene immediately and correct this injustice, as nowhere has the plague of this company been more devastating than in our urban communities. I would ask my fellow legislators to join me in this request.

Thank you.