

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE – NEW JERSEY  
360 CORPORATE BLVD., ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08691

**CONTACT:** Dan Meara  
609.689.0121 x 7011  
dmeara@ncaddnj.org

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### MOMS TO PETITION SPEAKER JOE ROBERTS IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION PARITY

#### ***More than 100 Bills to be Considered at Dec. 13 Assembly Session Child dangers of Yo-Yo waterballs recognized, denials / limitations of mental health/addiction treatment for children not***

ROBBINSVILLE ... (December 9, 2007) – Parent-to-Parent, a South Jersey based organization which assists parents with addicted children statewide, will hold a rally at Speaker Joseph Robert's Brooklawn Legislative District office Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to call for a General Assembly vote on A-2512 / S-807 which eliminates discriminatory insurance practices parents and many other New Jerseyans face when they seek mental health and addiction treatment for their children, family members, or themselves.

Originally scheduled for last Thursday, Parent-to-Parent postponed the event in anticipation of Speaker Roberts posting the legislation for a vote on the Dec. 13 Assembly Session agenda set for release on Friday. Friday's agenda shows more than 100 bills were posted for consideration, including legislation to ban sales of Yo-Yo waterballs deemed hazardous to children, but A-2512 / S-807 was not among them.

Parent-to-Parent and its co-founders Kass Foster, Louise Habicht, Kathleen Dobbs and Susan Foose, Moms who have experienced firsthand the struggles of seeking addiction treatment for their children some of whom have lost their children after being denied insurance coverage, expressed their disappointment at Speaker Roberts failure to post parity legislation and jointly stated, "If Speaker Roberts can recognize the hazard of Yo-Yo waterballs being sold to our children he is capable of understanding the extreme danger of having our children's addiction and mental health treatment denied or limited by health insurers. We've faced these dangers ourselves as well as the ravages of addiction and mental illness on our children. We're going to Speaker Robert's doorstep so he can hear directly our appeal to treat and protect and New Jersey's children with mental illness and addiction."

Speaker Roberts Office is located at Brooklawn Shopping Plaza between Kings Highway, Browning Road and Route 130 in Brooklawn, NJ.

Directions to the office can be found at <http://www.ncaddnj.org/pdf/SpeakerJRDir.pdf>

###