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*Office of the Governor*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Governor Body Slams Extreme Wrestling  
Violent "Entertainment" Subject to Regulation**

Governor Christie Whitman today signed legislation that will place restrictions on extreme wrestling. Noting the gruesome nature of the "entertainment" form, Whitman said the new legislation will prevent children from attending and being exposed to the violence that is commonplace during the events.

"Extreme wrestling goes beyond all sensibilities," said Governor Whitman. "But it will no longer go beyond the law in the State of New Jersey so I am pleased today to sign legislation that subjects extreme wrestling to regulation by the State Athletic Control Board."

"Extreme wrestling is vile, vulgar, and violent. Never let children think that this is acceptable or appropriate behavior. We need to give our kids uplifting messages, and this isn't one of them," Whitman continued.

A-2304, sponsored by Assembly Minority Leader Doria (D-Hudson), Assembly Speaker Collins (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester), Senate President DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/ Somerset/Union) and Senator O'Connor (D-Hudson), provides for the regulation of extreme wrestling by the State Athletic Control Board (SACB).

"Extreme wrestling is a grotesque and depraved activity," said Assemblyman Doria. "It's not entertainment. It's blood sport with no redeeming value for our children."

"The challenge here was to protect legitimate professional wrestling while giving the state and municipalities the legal means to control the violent sport of extreme wrestling," said Doria. "I applaud the Governor's speedy response to this commercialized form of brutality."

The legislation requires extreme wrestlers and their promoters to be licensed by the SACB. Promoters must obtain permits prior to holding any extreme wrestling event. In addition, the bill prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from attending the shows. Promoters must also notify the director of public safety in a municipality where they want to have an event at least 20 business days prior to the event. Public Safety officials have 15 business days to approve or reject the event based on public safety or public health concerns.

Any extreme wrestler or promoter who fails to adhere to these regulations would be subject to a civil penalty of no less than \$5,000.