The Trustees and staff of The Fund for New Jersey honor the legacy and mourn the loss of our longtime Trustee Governor James Florio, who died September 25, 2022. We extend our deepest condolences to Governor Florio’s wife Lucinda, his family, and his friends.

Governor Florio served as a Trustee of The Fund for New Jersey for 14 years, from 2008 to 2022. His public policy expertise and wide-ranging interests paired with the wisdom of his experience to shape The Fund’s support for progressive public policy and its commitment to democracy.

Most significantly, Governor Florio championed the power of an informed and engaged public, the essential requirement for participatory democracy. He believed in confronting hard problems, marshalling facts and clear analysis, and speaking frankly about public policy solutions. He was committed to fostering a cleaner environment, gun safety, quality education, fiscal responsibility, and urban revitalization, especially Camden’s.

He will always be remembered for his leadership, vision, and courage.

Governor Florio was a role model who expressed his deep commitment to public service in elected office and, for decades, beyond. He valued learning and teaching, discussion and deliberation, and making decisions that served the interest of the people of New Jersey, even if those decisions were not popular. In his later years he continued to use his voice and influence to urge New Jersey policy in the right direction.

We at The Fund appreciate Governor Florio’s many contributions, public and private. We are grateful to have worked with him, learned from him, and joined him in his dedication to make New Jersey – and the United States – a place where fairness and opportunity can overcome disadvantage and where good public policy can engender hope.

He will be missed by all of us at The Fund for New Jersey.