



**Special Olympics**  
New Jersey

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NORTH PLAINFIELD ATHLETE MEETS WITH SENATOR LAUTENBERG TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

LAWRENCEVILLE – On Wednesday, March 4, athlete, and North Plainfield resident, Ashley Weber, 17, along with Special Olympics New Jersey program leaders, met with U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg and other Congress members during Special Olympics Capitol Hill Day to urge Congressional support for Special Olympics Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations requests and to share with them the accomplishments of Special Olympics New Jersey.



This October, the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, signed into law by former President George W. Bush, expires and Special Olympics hopes that it will be championed for reauthorization. The Act provides critical funding for Special Olympics sports, education and health programs through the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education and State.

Special Olympics New Jersey was one of 39 Programs that participated in this year's event. Since 2005, Special Olympics athletes have been empowered by the Special Olympics movement to meet with their state Members of Congress to share their success, but also their need for support as a person with intellectual disabilities

Special Olympics New Jersey currently serves more than 18,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities, providing year round sports training and more than 160 competitive opportunities, completely free of charge.

For more information, please visit [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org).

-30-

*(High resolution photo available. Please e-mail [KLL@sonj.org](mailto:KLL@sonj.org))*

**ABOUT SONJ: Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.**