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**Via email to [galligan@lsu.edu](mailto:galligan@lsu.edu)**

Thomas C. Galligan Jr.  
Interim President  
Louisiana State University  
3810 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear President Galligan:

As you no doubt already are aware, all existing COVID vaccines are under an Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”). I am writing simply to support the initial decision of the Board of Supervisors to not require COVID vaccinations for students or to otherwise condition participation in education programs or continued employment on taking an EUA-authorized COVID vaccine.

Some people hold sincere religious beliefs against taking vaccines in general, or taking those derived from aborted fetal cell lines, or sold by companies that profit from the sale of vaccines and other products derived from abortion. Other people are concerned regarding the potential long-term health effects on their bodies of COVID vaccines, which have not been subject to long-term testing. Notably, the CDC and the Louisiana Department of Health recently issued an advisory regarding concerning incidents of young people – mostly boys – with pericarditis or myocarditis appearing within four days of receiving the second dose of some COVID vaccines.<sup>1</sup> The Johnson & Johnson also triggered health advisories and was temporarily halted.

LSU employees and students are protected against mandated COVID vaccines, under [21U.S.C. §360bbb-3](#), which provides that Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”) products (like all of the COVID vaccines) require (as a condition of emergency approval) that people have “the option to accept or refuse administration of the product.” “FDA has an obligation to ensure that recipients of the vaccine under an EUA are informed...that they have the option to accept or refuse the vaccine...”.

Under an Emergency Use Authorization, *vaccines are not allowed to be mandatory*. Students who decline the vaccine may continue complying with reasonable safety measures. Statewide in Louisiana, COVID cases are declining, without the requirement of vaccinations.

Louisiana law recognizes the right of students to be free from “creed” discrimination, which includes discrimination based on religious beliefs *and* nonreligious beliefs. *See* La. Stat. Ann. § 17:111.

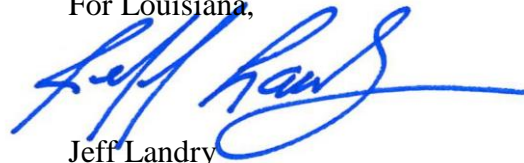
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<sup>1</sup>*See, CDC looking into possible link between heart problems and Covid vaccine in young people*; NBC News, (May 25, 2021); <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/cdc-looking-possible-link-between-heart-problem-covid-vaccines-young-n1268319>

Louisiana requires postsecondary institutions to recognize religious and other personal reasons as exemptions to vaccine mandates. *See, e.g.*, La. Stat. Ann. § 17:170.1, (“Any person who is eighteen years of age or older and who signs a waiver provided by the postsecondary education institution stating that the person has received and reviewed the information ... and has chosen not to be vaccinated ... for religious or other personal reasons.”) Louisiana also has enacted the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, La. Stat. Ann. § 13:5231- 5242. The Act declares religion a “fundamental right of the highest order in this state.”

I understand the LSU Faculty Senate passed a resolution pressing for mandatory student vaccination and I am deeply concerned by this situation. I trust the LSU Administration will maintain its prior decision not to mandate COVID vaccines and that LSU must comply with State and Federal law. I am requesting a written response from LSU that no vaccine mandates will be issued.

For Louisiana,



Jeff Landry  
Attorney General

Cc: LSU Board of Supervisors

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