

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL P.O. BOX 94005 BATON ROUGE 70804-9005

March 17, 2022

Honorable Clay Schexnayder Speaker of the House of Representatives 6473 Highway 44 Gonzales, LA 70737

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez Senate President 101 West Farrel Road Building 5, Suite 100 Lafayette, LA 70508

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 3

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Honorable Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley Chairman, House Committee on Health & and Welfare 671 Highway 171, Suite E Stonewall, LA 71078

Honorable Fred H. Mills Jr. Chairman, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare 1019 Periou Street Parks, LA 70582

Dear Rep. Schexnayder, Sen. Cortez, Rep. Bagley, and Sen. Mills:

The Louisiana Department of Justice filed a lawsuit on December 15, 2021, that seeks to void the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) rule requiring every student attending school in our State to receive a COVID-19 shot. Attached you will find an amicus curiae brief filed in our lawsuit by the Children's Health Defense (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) and over 4,600 concerned Louisiana parents who oppose the LDH requirement that their children receive the COVID-19 shot.

On December 6, 2021, the LDH testified in the House Committee on Health and Welfare that they will begin implementing this rule in August of 2022. While our lawsuit was filed immediately after the Governor overrode the Legislature's disapproval of the rule, we are all too familiar with the sluggish speed of the judicial process. This places parents around Louisiana who wish to exercise their own decisions as to the health and welfare of their children in a state of anxiety as the litigation plays out.

House Concurrent Resolution Number 3 by Representative Bagley represents a speedier and more definite solution. This concurrent resolution repeals the portion of the rule that adds the COVID-19 shot to the current immunization schedule and requires that "each individual entering or attending any school within the state in-person shall present to such school satisfactory evidence of having received vaccination(s) . . . including any booster doses . . . for [COVID-19]." LAC 51:II.701 (E). What's more: this resolution presents you with an opportunity to not only ensure

Rep. Schexnayder, Sen. Cortez, Rep. Bagley, and Sen. Mills March 17, 2022 Page 2

that students entering or attending school in August of 2022 are not mandated or harassed into receiving the COVID-19 shot, but also preserve state resources by eliminating the need for litigation.

I will continue to do my part in stopping the unauthorized exercise of legislative authority by the Governor and his LDH, but only the legislative branch can provide these parents and children with immediate relief from the COVID-19 shot requirement imposed by the LDH. I urge you to support this resolution to protect the rights of children and parents in the upcoming school year.

For Louisiana,

Jeff Land

Attorney General

Encl.

Amicus Curiae Brief Representative Raymond J. Crews And The State Of Louisiana Through Jeff Landry, In His Official Capacity As Attorney General And Chief Legal Officer Of The State Of Louisiana Versus Governor John Bel Edwards HCR 3 of the 2022 Regular Session LAC 51:II.701