



# 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



I am proud of the momentum we are experiencing in the state of Louisiana. We have turned the \$2 billion deficit I inherited at the start of my administration into a budget surplus. Our economy is growing, more people are in the workforce, we are experiencing the highest Gross Domestic Product in a decade, and more

Louisianans have health insurance coverage thanks to Medicaid Expansion. The legislative package I have put forth will continue to advance our people and our state. My top priorities include raising teacher pay, giving our people a voice and a vote in increasing the minimum wage, ending pay secrecy to help close the gender wage gap, supporting veteran owned businesses and protecting health insurance coverage for the more than 850,000 Louisianans with pre-existing conditions. Working together, we have done well by our state, but there is more work to be done. I'm excited to work in a bi-partisan manner to improve the lives of the people of our great state. Details of my 2019 Legislative Agenda are below.

## TEACHER PAY RAISE

### SCR 3 BY SEN. BLADE MORRISH, HCR 1 BY REP. NANCY LANDRY

Provides for a \$1,000 pay raise for teachers or certificated personnel, a \$500 pay raise for school support or non-certificated personnel and a 1.375% increase in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) per pupil amount.

## EQUAL PAY

### SB 136 BY SEN. J.P. MORRELL

Eliminates pay secrecy by prohibiting employers from taking actions against employees for inquiring about, discussing or disclosing their wages or another employee's wages.

## MINIMUM WAGE

### SB 155 BY SEN. TROY CARTER

Authorizes a constitutional amendment to allow the voters of Louisiana the opportunity to adopt a state minimum wage of \$9.00 per hour effective July 1, 2020.

## PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

### HB 237 BY REP. CHAD BROWN

Protects nearly 850,000 Louisianans with a pre-existing condition by prohibiting health plans or health insurers from discriminating against a health insurance applicant based upon pre-existing conditions or health status.

## REGULATION OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

### SB 41 BY SEN. FRED MILLS

Provides for the regulatory framework necessary for the Louisiana Department of Insurance, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, and Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to respond to consumer and provider complaints against prescription drug middle men known as Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

## FIGHTING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

### HB 243 BY REP. DUSTIN MILLER

Creates a mechanism for rapid surveillance of overdoses in the state by enhancing data reporting of fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses where opioids are suspected or present.

## OPPORTUNITY ZONES

### HB TO BE FILED BY REP. JIMMY HARRIS & SEN. J.P. MORRELL

Allows for a 30% Angel Investor Tax Credit for investors that invest in a Louisiana Entrepreneurial Business that is located within one of Louisiana's 150 Opportunity Zones. This bill also proposes expanding eligibility for the Restoration Tax Abatement program to properties located within any of Louisiana's 150 Opportunity Zones.

### HB 549 BY REP. PATRICK JEFFERSON

Expands eligibility for the Restoration Tax Abatement to properties located within any of Louisiana's 150 Opportunity Zones.

## VETERANS

### **HB 391 BY REP. FRANKLIN FOIL**

Establishes “The Veterans First Business Initiative”, a statewide initiative designed to identify veteran owned businesses in Louisiana, create a veteran owned business designation that they can use, and produce a state database for Louisianans to search for various goods or services of veteran owned businesses.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

### **SB 194 BY SEN. BLADE MORRISH**

Ensures universal access to dual enrollment by providing for the creation of a statewide framework granting all eligible Juniors and Seniors the opportunity to receive, at no cost, at least two (2) dual enrollment courses per year.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### **SB 145 BY SEN. RONNIE JOHNS**

Provides for the creation of a human trafficking victim services delivery model.

## CYBERSECURITY

### **SB 46 BY SEN. BARROW PEACOCK**

Enacts the Louisiana Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act.

### **SCR TO BE FILED BY SEN. DANNY MARTINY**

Provides for the development and authorization of a Planning Conference and Table Top Exercise (“TTX”) with respect to cybersecurity.

## FOSTER CARE

### **SB 109 BY SEN. REGINA BARROW**

Extends foster care through the age of 21 for eligible youth.

## RURAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

### **SB 170 BY SEN. FRANCIS THOMPSON**

Creates the Rural Water Infrastructure Committee within the Governor’s Office to address the need for the development and implementation of a comprehensive rural water infrastructure plan to address deteriorating public water supply systems across the state.

## IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER PAY RAISES

A longtime education advocate and chair of the Southern Regional Education Board, Gov. Edwards is committed to increasing funding in the classroom and increasing pay for teachers and school support personnel.

Gov. Edwards is proposing that we bring teacher pay up to speed with other southern regional states starting with a \$1,000 raise this year.

He supports a \$500 raise for school support personnel, from cafeteria to maintenance staff, who also contribute to creating an environment conducive to learning.

By properly compensating teachers we can begin to recruit and retain the best and brightest to this noble profession rather than losing them to more competitive states.

Finally, Gov. Edwards supports a 1.375% increase in the per-pupil allocation in Level 1 of the MFP. This has only been increased once in the last ten years. A recent study by the U.S. Dept. of Education finds that 94 percent of teachers spend their own money without reimbursement due to a lack of sufficient funding in the classroom.

The money may go to teachers but the investment is in our children.



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