

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Taylor Barras
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Speaker Barras:

As you are aware, I have very serious concerns with the attorney general unilaterally committing the state of Louisiana to a lawsuit that, if successful, would allow insurance companies to deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. In Louisiana, 849,000 individuals are estimated to have a pre-existing condition, and thus, have their health care in jeopardy. Prior to his decision to enter into this lawsuit, he had no conversations with my administration or health officials about the possible repercussions.

Following an interview on CNN where the attorney general indicated he did not have a backup plan in place for the individuals that could lose coverage, you indicated your strong support for "protecting people with pre-existing conditions." Furthermore, you encouraged me to "engage the legislature immediately" to begin reviewing options.

As you know, next year is a fiscal session, which means legislators are limited to five (5) non-fiscal related bills. Given your strong support for these protections, I am asking you to reserve one of your five bills for this joint effort to protect people with pre-existing conditions from losing their coverage. This strong, public show of support from both you and the attorney general would ensure its passage and provide peace of mind to the 849,000 individuals who will await the court's decision.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Attorney General Jeff Landry