

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

June 27, 2023

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 399 of the 2023 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 399 of the 2023 Regular Session.

Current state law provides for vaccine requirements for elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, proprietary schools, vocational schools, and licensed day care centers that are based on expert medical advice and schedules put together by the Louisiana Department of Health. Current law also provides for exceptions to those requirements when the student or his parent or guardian submits either a written statement from a physician stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons, or a written dissent from the student or his parent or guardian is presented.

House Bill 399 as passed the legislature is a covert attempt to undermine the faith of the public in vaccines. School vaccination requirements protect both students and school personnel in communities where potential for vaccine-preventable disease transmission is high. Perpetuating mistrust in vaccines that are safe, effective, and essential to public health is reckless and extremely dangerous. House Bill 399 will not become law.

For these reasons, I have vetoed the bill.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bel Edwards in black ink.
John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President