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April 11, 2022

Re: HCR3, Repeals administrative rules of the La. Department of Health adding COVID vaccines to the state immunization schedule and requiring schools to prohibit in-person attendance by certain unvaccinated students

Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

We are writing today in support of Representative Bagley's HCR3 which will suspend the addition of the COVID-19 vaccine to the required list of vaccinations for school attendance. RS 17:170 is specific to diseases that are vaccine preventable and clearly states:

A.(1)(a) Each person entering any school within the state for the first time, including elementary and secondary schools, kindergartens, colleges, universities, proprietary schools, vocational schools, and licensed day care centers, at the time of registration or entry shall present satisfactory evidence of immunity to or mmunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to a schedule approved by the office of public health, Louisiana Department of Health, or shall present evidence of an immunization program in progress.

The addition of this vaccine to the required list for school attendance violates the existing statute as no COVID-19 vaccine currently available in the United States prevents transmission, infection, or disease manifestation.

This committee should be aware that while the state's public health officer, Dr. Joseph Kanter, assured the members of the House Health and Welfare committee on December 6, 2021, that the addition of the covid vaccines would be applicable "only for ages for which the vaccines have received full licensure and approval by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration, currently this would apply only for students aged 16 years and older," only ten days later on December 16th, the Louisiana Office of Public Health granted approval to 86 New Orleans city schools to require covid vaccinations for children ages 5 and up. There are currently no FDA-approved covid vaccines for that age group. By the FDA's own definition, a drug with Emergency Use Authorization is still considered *experimental*.^{1,2} There is no excuse for this level of malfeasance.

This legislative body should take steps to ensure that this vaccine, which fails the basic statutory standard of preventing disease, is not required of ANY student in the state.

¹ fda.gov/drugs/types-applications/investigational-new-drug-ind-application

² fda.gov/patients/learn-about-expanded-access-and-other-treatment-options/understanding-investigational-drugs

Further, we request that an inquiry be initiated into the approval granted to New Orleans city schools for an experimental drug to be required for school attendance. If parents were not fully informed that the drug for this age group is not fully FDA approved, voluntary informed consent was denied - an incredible violation of medical ethics.

Kind regards, Jill Hines and Fiorella Trapani Co-Directors Health Freedom Louisiana