



RURAL HOSPITAL COALITION

Louisiana Partnership
for children & families



November 8, 2018

Dear Attorney General Landry:

We are writing to share our deep concerns about your decision to sign Louisiana onto the federal lawsuit, *Texas v. United States*, which threatens health care coverage and access to health services for hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents who depend on the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The lawsuit also threatens vital consumer protections that benefit everyone in Louisiana.

As you know, the lawsuit has the potential to overturn the entire law, including provisions that are vastly popular among Louisianans. That means 485,000 low-income Louisiana adults who are now covered through Medicaid expansion could become uninsured. Another 94,000 low- to moderate-income Louisiana families who receive federal subsidies to buy insurance in the individual marketplace could lose that assistance. Nearly 850,000 people with pre-existing conditions in Louisiana could lose protections that prohibit discrimination by insurance companies in the event they need to purchase their own health insurance.

We're most concerned about the lawsuit's specific focus on eliminating the "guaranteed issue" and "community rating" protections included in the federal law. Guaranteed issue requires insurance companies to allow a person to enroll regardless of health status. The community rating provision prohibits insurance companies from charging premiums based on a person's age, gender or health status. Without these vital consumer protections, Louisiana could return to a time when a person's health status could put health coverage, and the financial security and peace of mind that comes with it, out of reach.

Your decision to join this suit was made without any clear plan at the state level for replacing the coverage options and consumer protections that are now at risk. This has threatened the health and financial security for hundreds of thousands of people in the state. The ACA is not perfect, but it has dramatically improved access to lifesaving health care services and ensured basic protections for consumers. We believe those gains should be preserved.

We respectfully request that you withdraw Louisiana from the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kimbrell
Louisiana Public Health Institute

Jan Moller
Louisiana Budget Project

Charles Castille
Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition

Carol DeVille
League of Women Voters of Louisiana

William Quigley
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