

# State of Louisiana

## House of Representatives



### **PETITION TO TERMINATE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Edwards issued Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 to declare a statewide public health emergency due to the imminent threat posed to Louisiana citizens by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump issued Proclamation 9994 declaring a national emergency concerning COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the governor, after consulting with medical experts, understood that the spread of COVID-19 posed a significant risk of substantial future harm and even death to a large number of Louisiana residents; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary threat posed by COVID-19 initially caused critical shortages of healthcare equipment and personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and serious concerns about reduced beds and capacity in hospitals to care for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, without the protective measures imposed by the governor to slow the spread of COVID-19, Louisiana healthcare facilities and other resources were at risk of being overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, Governor Edwards' proactive actions and measures at the onset of COVID-19 were necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the impact of COVID-19 on our national and state economies prompted congress to provide an unprecedented amount of federal aid to citizens, businesses, and state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, despite this aid, many Louisiana small businesses have gone out of business, and many more are in danger of going out of business as a consequence of the restrictive measures put in place to combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the measures imposed to slow the spread of COVID-19 have also resulted in a lack of social interaction and feelings of isolation which can be detrimental to the mental health and well-being of Louisiana residents; and

WHEREAS, students in Louisiana have been hindered in their academic and extracurricular pursuits which are critical to their overall personal growth and development, and such hindrance can greatly limit future academic and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in the eight months following the initial declaration of a public health emergency by Governor Edwards, the medical supply chain has recovered and is capable of meeting the current demands for COVID-19-related medical equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS, after eight months of state-directed efforts, the emergency systems and procedures that have been put in place, along with a sustainable medical supply chain and an informed public, have overcome what was initially an imminent threat to our residents and healthcare system caused by the spread of COVID-19 and a strained medical supply chain; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has generally consulted with the public health authority continuously throughout the public health emergency by way of conference calls, daily reports, weekly updates, and has consulted with the public health authority specifically regarding the object of this petition by a consultation meeting with the legislature; and

WHEREAS, it is the will of the Louisiana House of Representatives that, during the duration of the suspension of the executive authority to issue public health emergencies in accordance with R.S. 29:768, Governor Edwards consult with the Legislature of Louisiana for the purpose of receiving the approval of the Legislature of Louisiana prior to the declaration of a post-suspension public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, should the governor determine that a declaration of a post-suspension public health emergency is necessary and due to the different impacts of COVID-19 across the state, it is the will of the Louisiana House of Representatives that the declaration include provisions allowing each parish president and each chief executive officer of a municipality to withdraw from the declared state of public health emergency.

WHEREAS, if the governor believes a post-suspension emergency proclamation or order related to COVID-19 is necessary, it is the will of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana that the governor consult with the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, and the president pro tempore of the Senate in order to determine the appropriate measures to respond to the issue.

BE IT RESOLVED that the termination of Proclamation Number 134 JBE 2020 shall have no effect on the continuation of hurricane-related declarations of emergency, including Proclamation Number 141 JBE 2020, and such other hurricane-related proclamations.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the undersigned members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana, constituting a majority of the elected members of the House of Representatives thereof, and in consultation with the public health authority, do hereby terminate Proclamation Number 134 JBE 2020, effective upon receipt of this petition by the governor; do hereby prohibit, for a period commencing upon presentation of this petition to the governor and ending seven days after issuance of the proclamation terminating Proclamation Number 134 JBE 2020, any additional gubernatorial orders declaring, renewing, extending, or supplementing any state of public health emergency; and do hereby instruct the governor to issue an executive order or proclamation terminating Proclamation Number 134 JBE 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

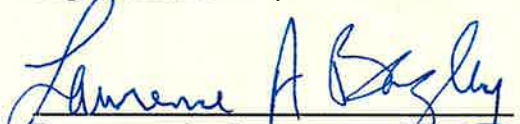
Members of the Louisiana House of Representatives

  
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Speaker Clay Schexnayder


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Representative Roy Daryl Adams

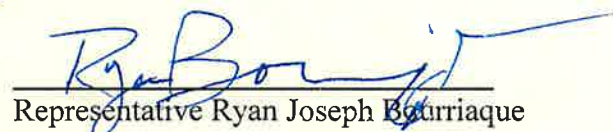
  
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Representative Tony Bacala

  
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Representative Stuart J. Bishop

  
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Representative Kathy Edmonston

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Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment

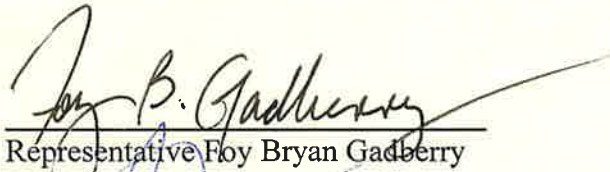
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Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg



Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman



Representative Foy Bryan Gadberr

Representative Randal L. Gaines

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Representative Timothy P. Kerner


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Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Ed Larvadain III

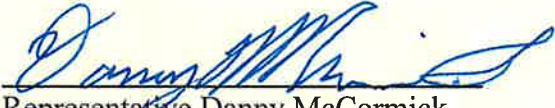
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Representative Rodney Lyons

  
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Representative Sherman Q. Mack

  
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Representative Tanner D. Magee


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Representative C. Denise Marcelle


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Representative Joseph A. Marino, III

  
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Representative Danny McCormick

  
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Representative Jack G. McFarland

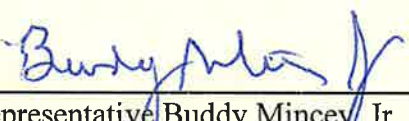
  
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Representative Markham Scott McKnight

  
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Representative Wayne McMahan

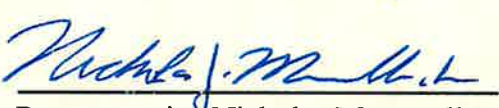
  
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Representative Brake Miguez

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Representative Dustin Miller

  
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Representative Gregory A. Miller

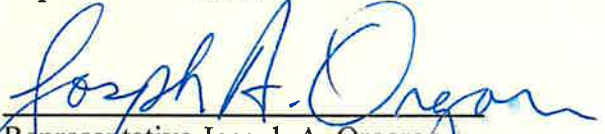
  
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Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.


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Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore


  
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Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.

  
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Representative Richard James Nelson

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Representative Candace N. Newell

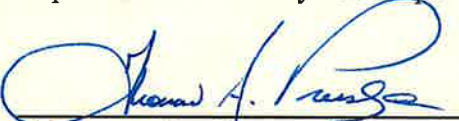
  
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Representative Joseph A. Orgeron


  
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Representative Charles Anthony Owen


  
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Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

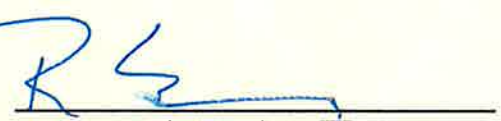
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Representative Tammy T. Phelps

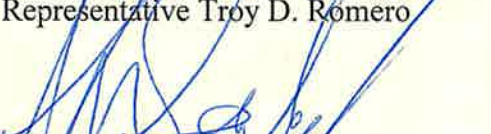
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Representative Vincent J. Pierre

  
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Representative Thomas A. Pressly

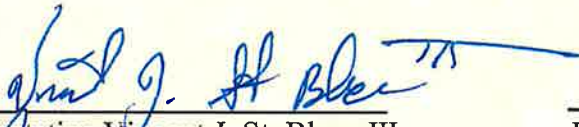
  
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Representative Neil Riser

  
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Representative Troy D. Romero

  
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Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn

  
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Representative Alan Seabaugh

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Representative Larry Selders



Representative Vincent J. St. Blanc III

Representative Joseph A. Stagni



Representative John M. Stefanski

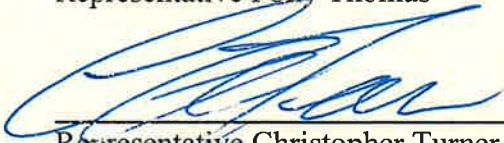


Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

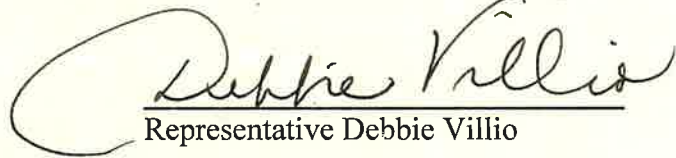


Representative Polly Thomas

Representative Francis C. Thompson



Representative Christopher Turner



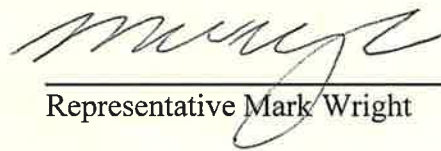
Representative Debbie Villio



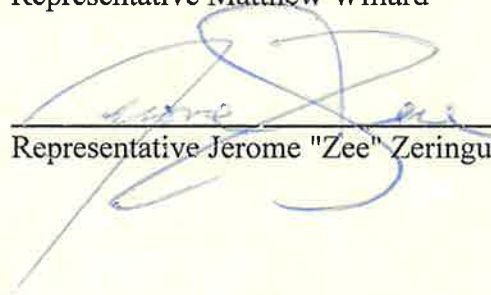
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

Representative Malinda B. White

Representative Matthew Willard



Representative Mark Wright



Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue