



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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June 24, 2025

The Honorable Phillip DeVillier
Speaker of the House
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Cameron Henry
President of the Senate
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Line Item Veto in House Bill No. 463 of the Regular Session

Dear Speaker DeVillier and President Henry:

Please allow this letter to inform you that I have signed House Bill No. 463 of the 2025 Regular Session. However, I have exercised the line item veto authority granted to me to veto one item.

Louisiana is no stranger to tough challenges. We are fighting one of the highest obesity rates in the country, and at the same time, we are facing serious pressure on our state budget. That is why it is important to not only support smart health policies, but also protect taxpayers from costly commitments we cannot sustain.

House Bill 463 would require the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) to cover weight loss medications like Semaglutide, but only if doing so does not increase costs to the health plan during the next fiscal year.

Helping our state employees live healthier lives is a worthy goal, and I applaud the Legislature for recognizing that. However, I am concerned that some of these new weight loss medications may be offered at little or no cost upfront – only to carry sky-high prices later. These drugs can cost over \$1,000 a month per person. Even temporary coverage could set expectations for long-term use that Louisiana simply cannot afford. If just a small portion of eligible employees begin using them, the long-term costs could quickly climb into the tens of millions.

If this turns into a recurring expense, it could seriously weaken OGB's financial stability, lead to higher premiums for workers and their families, and add yet another burden to the state budget. In short: it risks more financial strain on everyday Louisianans – now and in the years ahead.

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4:15 pm
House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

HB 463 Veto Message
June 24, 2025

To be clear, OGB will continue covering Semaglutide for members who need it to treat Type II Diabetes. But when it comes to expanding coverage for weight loss, we have to be honest about the real costs – not just for this year, but for the future. We need to put our people’s health first, but we also need to protect our State’s finances from unsustainable promises.

Accordingly, I have exercised my line item veto authority as follows:

Veto No. 1 Deletes Lines 17 - 21 on Page 4 of 8

Enclosed is a copy of the signed version of House Bill 463. I have sent the original to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Copy of House Bill 463