

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1803**

August 18, 2021

Governor John Bel Edwards  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Governor Edwards,

COVID-19 and its Delta variant have presented unique challenges to healthcare systems across Louisiana. Expanding the availability of Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Treatments to all medical facilities that are capable of administering it, including infusion centers and qualified medical clinics across the state, can play an important role in combating this virus.

These mAb treatments have been cleared for those 12 years of age and older who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 and are at high risk for severe illness. The antibodies have been shown to aid the immune system in detecting and combating the virus.

To make mAb treatments more widely accessible, especially within our rural communities, I ask that you direct the Louisiana Department of Health to actively and aggressively promote the availability of this treatment to all medical facilities across the state, much like the State of Florida has done. COVID-19 and Delta have overwhelmed many of Louisiana's hospital systems, and expanding beyond hospital distribution of mAb supplies to smaller but capable facilities can only help to lessen this burden. This also allows for more local access to these treatments, which will save lives in more rural areas where hospital access is limited.

These therapeutics have life-saving abilities, and it is our duty as elected officials to ensure that they are rapidly and efficiently deployed where needed. I look forward to working with you on this mission.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress