



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2025 Policy Positions

Health & Wellness

Behavioral Healthcare

Ellevate Louisiana supports the expansion of comprehensive mental health services, with a particular focus on increasing access to youth services and statewide crisis stabilization. Recognizing the critical issue of mental health and the significance of outcomes, we also advocate for increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health services. We support collaborative systems of care designed to support vulnerable populations and connect them with the resources they need.

Long-Term Care

Ellevate Louisiana supports adding 750 Community Choice waiver slots to the LDH budget to expand home and community-based care for seniors. We also support increased legal accountability for abuse or neglect in long-term care settings and oppose efforts to limit nursing home liability. Our aging population deserves stronger protections, greater dignity, more options to age in place and robust support from the state's health and human services system.

Mental Health Screening in Schools

Ellevate Louisiana advocates for free mental health screenings in schools as part of a proactive approach to identifying at-risk youth. By having the Louisiana Department of Health work in tandem with school systems to establish evidence-based early identification, prevention, and support systems, we can uplift students and reduce the number of young people falling through the cracks. These free screenings must require parental consent, should be destroyed after review with parent, and must not influence a student's record.



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Support for Victim of Domestic Violence

Ellevate Louisiana recognizes the urgent crisis of domestic abuse in our state and supports allocating \$10 million in the 2026 budget to aid victims. Domestic violence carries a massive human and economic cost, with statewide estimates exceeding \$10 billion annually. We also support sentencing leniency for survivors convicted of abuse-related crimes, as a step toward a more compassionate and just legal system that acknowledges the complex realities of domestic violence.

Maternal & Child Health

Ellevate Louisiana supports evidence-based policies that improve maternal and child health outcomes in a state with some of the nation's worst disparities. We advocate for expanded Medicaid and private insurance coverage for home visits, doula care, remote monitoring, and infant nutrition support—proven tools to improve outcomes and reduce costs. We also support access to maternal mental health services and efforts to expand obstetric care in underserved areas. Louisiana must strengthen its maternal health infrastructure to ensure all women receive comprehensive, high-quality care, regardless of income, location, or circumstance.

In Vitro Fertilization

Ellevate Louisiana supports protecting and expanding access to IVF, ensuring it remains accessible, safe, and affordable. We advocate for patient-centered care that respects the personal nature of fertility treatment and upholds the ability of patients and physicians to make informed, medically guided decisions.

Cancer Care in Declared Emergencies

Ellevate Louisiana supports pausing prior authorization requirements for cancer care under Medicaid during declared emergencies. Disruptions from natural disasters can delay critical treatments, and timely, uninterrupted care is essential for cancer patients. This policy would help ensure continuity of care when patients are most vulnerable.



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Water Quality & Fluoridation

Ellevate Louisiana opposes a statewide ban on water fluoridation. Decades of research confirm that fluoridated water is the single most effective and inexpensive public health measure to prevent tooth decay, particularly in children and low-income populations. Communities that fluoridate their water experience significantly lower rates of dental disease, and proposals for unnecessary restrictions undermine local control and jeopardize long-standing public health protections.

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

Ellevate Louisiana supports increasing physician reimbursement rates for Medicaid to 85% of Medicare rates as proposed in the FY26 state budget as an initial step towards reaching 100% parity between Medicaid-Medicare rates. Research has shown access to Medicaid insurance directly leads to positive economic impacts not just in the healthcare sector but spread across the state. Increasing physician reimbursement rates should improve access and support the needs of over one million Louisianans, expanding access to care for vulnerable populations, reducing disparities, and strengthening the state's public health outcomes.

Efficient and timely Medicaid eligibility verification is vital to maintaining continuity of care and preventing lapses that can worsen health outcomes. We support balanced approaches that protect the integrity of Medicaid while ensuring accessibility and fairness for those it serves.

Tobacco & Vaping Products

Ellevate Louisiana supports raising excise taxes on tobacco and vaping products as an effective public health measure. With youth vaping rates alarmingly high in Louisiana, higher prices can significantly reduce use and prevent early addiction. Even a 10% price increase can cut youth e-cigarette use by up to 24%. Given the state's \$2 billion in smoking-related healthcare costs, increasing these taxes is a smart, cost-effective way to improve health and reduce long-term public expenses.