



# Patrick Cortez

Senate District SD-023  
Republican



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This legislator voted constitutionally on **83%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty      ✗ Anti-liberty      ? Did not Vote      **Vote**

**1. HB282 "Free" School Meals** (passed 36 to 0 on 6/7/2023). **Yes**  
Provides that all eligible students shall be provided with school breakfast and lunch "free of charge," while requiring the state's Department of Education to reimburse the governing authorities of school nutrition programs. **✗**

**2. HB648 Ban on Sex Mutilation Against Minors** (passed 29 to 10 on 6/5/2023). **Yes**  
Would, as the "Stop Harming Our Kids Act," ban certain procedures to alter the sex of a minor child. **★**

**3. HB415 Preempting a Central Bank Digital Currency** (passed 33 to 6 on 6/5/2023). **Yes**  
Would amend sections of state law regarding bank deposits to prevent the inclusion of a "central bank digital currency." **★**

**4. HB399 Exemptions from Student Vaccine Mandates** (passed 28 to 11 on 6/5/2023). **Yes**  
Would apply exemptions to student immunization requirements not only to students seeking to enter school but also to students attending school. **★**

**5. SB149 Establishing a Minimum Wage** (failed 13 to 25 on 5/30/2023). **No**  
Would have established a state minimum wage starting at \$10 per hour beginning January 1, 2024, with increases set to \$12 per hour in 2026 and \$14 per hour in 2028. **★**

**6. SCR21 Sovereign Right to Nullification** (passed 27 to 10 on 5/25/2023). **Yes**  
Affirms "the sovereign right of Louisiana to nullify unconstitutional acts of the federal government." **★**



## LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Sen. Patrick Cortez**  
Lifetime Score: 73%

**LA Scorecard 2023**  
2023 Regular Session Score 83%

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Louisiana State Legislature in 2023 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.

This is our second state-level Scorecard; the selected votes may not be reflective of legislators' overall records. Their cumulative scores will change as we add more votes. Please check regularly for updates.



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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. "Free" School Meals

HB282 provides that all eligible students shall be provided with school breakfast and lunch “free of charge,” while requiring the state’s Department of Education to reimburse the governing authorities of school nutrition programs.

Neither feeding children nor educating them is the role of government—rather, each of these responsibilities belongs to a child’s parents or family. The state has absolutely no “duty to furnish” school meals, which, in fact, do not come at “no cost.” The reality is that these cradle-to-grave types of government dependency not only cause more debt and poverty, but continue the irresponsible and unconstitutional use of taxpayer money. The hard-working citizens of Louisiana ought not to be disparaged of their right to the income they have earned to fund all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run K-12 school system.

## 2. Ban on Sex Mutilation Against Minors

HB648, the “Stop Harming Our Kids Act,” would ban certain procedures to alter the sex of a minor child.

Louisiana should act to ban sex mutilation, which not only violates the unalienable right to life and limb of children, but absurdly attempts to erase biological "sex" with fictional “gender” constructs. According to the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the States have a duty to protect the humanity of all people—male and female—who, as the Declaration of Independence affirms, are created by God and form the basis of individual and family self-government.

## 3. Preempting a Central Bank Digital Currency

HB415 would amend sections of state law regarding bank deposits to prevent the inclusion of a “central bank digital currency.”

This bill seeks to preempt the use of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)—the potential of which presents a significant danger to Americans’ civil liberties. Not only would a CBDC be a blatantly unconstitutional and intolerable expansion of tyranny under the Federal Reserve, but according to Article 1, Section 10, of the U.S. Constitution, “No State shall...make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts.” States can and must act now to avow their adherence to constitutionally sound money.

## 4. Exemptions from Student Vaccine Mandates

HB399 would apply exemptions to student immunization requirements not only to students seeking to enter school but also to students attending school.

Vaccine mandates ought to be rejected, as an individual’s non-injurious activities, including personal health care decisions, are private matters that should not be under federal, state, or local jurisdiction in the United States. To compel American citizens to receive medical treatment would be to violate their fundamental rights protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## 5. Establishing a State Minimum Wage

SB149 would have established a state minimum wage starting at \$10 per hour beginning January 1, 2024, with increases set to \$12 per hour in 2026 and \$14 per hour in 2028.

State minimum wage laws are anti-constitutional, discriminatory acts of government theft. They forcibly deny the property rights of both employers and employees by violating their freedom of association, preventing individuals from entering into contracts voluntarily according to their own terms. As dishonest and manipulative tactics to control labor in the economy, they create an unequal balance of wealth confiscation and redistribution, hindering the best workers from getting the best jobs at the best prices. The Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment were intended to protect against undue deprivations or disparagements of a person’s “property,” guaranteeing “equal protection of the laws” for all Americans.

## 6. Sovereign Right to Nullification

SCR21 affirms “the sovereign right of Louisiana to nullify unconstitutional acts of the federal government.”

Article VI, Clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution requires that federal laws be made “in Pursuance” of the Constitution in order to be the “supreme Law of the Land.” As such, any federal act that violates the Constitution is unconstitutional and therefore null, void, and of no force. Given that Article VI, Clause 3, further requires that state officials “shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution,” legislators in Louisiana indeed have a solemn duty to uphold the sovereign right of the people to resist and obstruct usurpations of power by the federal government. Nullification is the Constitution’s solution to reining in out-of-control government.