




# PRESS RELEASE

LOUISIANA TREASURER JOHN FLEMING, MD

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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **RECEIPTS REQUESTED FROM LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**Baton Rouge, LA**—On May 12, 2025, the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools issued a press release criticizing the exposure of some questionable spending uncovered on the **Louisiana K-12 School Transparency Website**.

The Louisiana Department of Treasury staff received **2.5 million** data lines uploaded by public and charter schools throughout Louisiana. We raised legitimate questions about seven charter schools' restaurant and bar spending.

Ms. Caroline Roemer, Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, claimed that financial transparency was being turned into a “political weapon.”

Nothing could be further from the truth. “I have a well-earned reputation in public service as a watchdog on wasteful spending. The only ‘weapon’ I am using is transparency to fight for efficiency in state government. Too often, the taxpayers of Louisiana are the real victims. Our report outlined how taxpayer money was being spent. It will be their determination whether it was spent wastefully or inefficiently,” said Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D.

Dr. Fleming said, “Our office simply reported the information provided by each school participating in the transparency portal. If there were any mistakes, they were made by the schools that provided the information. I would recommend that Ms. Roemer contact each of the schools to review their records.”

In her press release, Ms. Roemer criticized the Louisiana Department of Treasury for using “vague” spending codes. However, “the [codes](#) our office used were specific and mandated by the Louisiana Department of Education guide,” noted Dr. Fleming. The Louisiana Department of Treasury required all school systems to classify expenditures per the Louisiana Accounting & Uniform Governmental Handbook for local school boards available on the Louisiana Department of Education website.

Ms. Roemer said that the news release lacked “basic context.” Therefore, Dr.

Fleming recommends that the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools furnish the Louisiana Department of Treasury detailed receipts on all the questionable spending to provide more information and a fuller picture of the expenditures being reviewed.

This additional disclosure will allow taxpayers to determine whether the spending was appropriate. Reasonable questions were raised after the Department of Treasury staff thoroughly reviewed the information schools provided.

Among other discoveries, the Department of Treasury staff identified **\$216,961.55** in spending at bars, liquor stores and restaurants such as Bayou Beer Garden, Brittany's Restaurant and Lounge, Cure, Elysian Bar, Felipe's Mexican Taqueria, Louisiana Fine Wine and Spirits, Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar and Restaurant, Lula Restaurant Distillery, Martin's Wine Cellar, and Total Wine and More.

The **Louisiana K-12 School Transparency Website** gives Louisiana taxpayers easy access to details regarding how public schools spend public funds. This project aims to increase transparency in public school financial matters and community and parent involvement.

Dr. Fleming said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant to fight inefficiency. The more transparency we offer the people of Louisiana, the more efficient our state government will become, leading to enhanced educational outcomes for our children and better pay for our teachers."

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