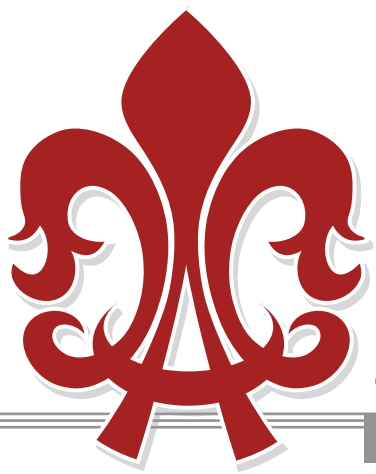




Putin, unfazed by Trump, will fight on

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Cassidy's campaign



U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., right, speaks with committee chairman Senator Bill Cassidy, Republican from Louisiana, before the start of a Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., May 14. JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Senator builds massive war chest to defend seat against MAGA opponents

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy continues to build a mountain of money to defend his seat in 2026 against at least two GOP opponents who question his MAGA credentials.

Cassidy's campaign announced Louisiana's senior senator will report \$9 million cash on hand after raising \$2.1 million more in the second quarter.

Second-quarter campaign finance reports aren't due until July 15, but Cassidy's campaign announced his haul early to flex the candidate's financial muscles.

"I'm grateful for the outpouring of support from many who want proven conservative leadership," Cassidy said in a statement. "I am proud to have

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How Cassidy supports rural Louisiana hospitals

Ian Robinson
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy knows the importance of rural hospitals, having treated patients in Louisiana's charity hospital system for 20 years. This experience has led to efforts to keep them operating, including a \$50 billion fund in Congress in to protect healthcare in rural Louisiana.

Cassidy said that Louisiana, with only 1 percent of the nation's population, will receive about 2 percent of the \$50 billion in rural hospital funding in Trump's One, Big, Beautiful Act.

Criticism of the president's law, which makes cuts to Medicaid, is that it could threaten the operation of rural hospitals in addition to the people who could lose their health insurance.

However, Cassidy stated he helped the state qualify for additional Medi-

Cassidy said that Louisiana, with only 1 percent of the nation's population, will receive about 2 percent of the \$50 billion in rural hospital funding in Trump's One, Big, Beautiful Act.

caid dollars.

"There's also something where the state had recently put an application that would allow for Medicaid dollars to come down to rural hospitals and there was a risk because they missed the deadline that would we not qualify," Cassidy stated. "But I was able to

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Child care cost in Louisiana

How does it compare to other states?

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Child care can be quite expensive in the U.S., with a married couple potentially spending over 13% of their income on care and a single parent possibly spending roughly 51% of their income, according to WalletHub.

Despite child care being expensive, it is often an essential service for both single and married parents, as both parents are employed in 66.5% of families with children, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In order to identify the states with the highest and lowest child care costs, WalletHub analyzed the prices of family-based, as well as center-based child care, and adjusted them by the median income.

See CHILD CARE, Page 2A

Viemed acquires Lehan's for \$26 million

Aaron Gonsoulin
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Viemed Healthcare Inc., an in-home respiratory care provider headquartered in Lafayette, announced the completion of its previously disclosed acquisition of Illinois-based Lehan's Medical Equipment.

The deal closed for a base purchase price of \$26 million, subject to standard adjustments, with an additional estimated \$2.2 million in contingent payments, according to Viemed.

Viemed, which provides post-acute respiratory equipment and services across the United States, funded the transaction through a combination of cash on hand and borrowings from its

See LEHAN'S, Page 3A

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