

**Robert F Kennedy Jr, US Presidential Candidate 2024 - text message as sent on 31/1/2023**

*Dear Courtenay, I don't take a position on this issue and I don't have the bandwidth to make myself an expert. As a lifelong advocate, I also understand the strategic pitfall of taking a position, even if it is technically correct, that will marginalize one so badly that one will become ineffective on every other issue. Lincoln always abhorred slavery but he did not publicly oppose it until 1864 when the country had caught up with him. If he had endorsed emancipation earlier, he would've lost most of his support for the civil war among urban whites in the northern cities and slavery would have never ended. Timing and a sense of the public pulse are important to successful advocacy. I do not take a position that viruses do or don't exist. I support the rights of people like you and Tom Cowan to argue that they do not and I listen to your arguments with interest. But I do not endorse either point of view for the two reasons that I mentioned above.*

*I admire your courage and your intellectual integrity and I encourage you to continue educating the public.*