

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

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**Action Alert - Contact Appropriations Committee Members**  
**February 22, 2010**  
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- Contact the Chairman and Appropriations Committee Members
- Confirm your Action
- Sample Letter
- Background Information
- Any Questions?

1. Contact the Chairman and members of the Appropriations Committee in your region to express your support of the reforms to the DD system in the Governor's Budget.
2. Express your support of the 150 additional NOW slots in the Governor's Budget.
3. A Sample letter is included below that you should personalize.
4. Confirm your action by replying to this email.

**Contact the Chairman and Appropriations Committee Members**  
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[House Appropriations Committee Members](#)  
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**Confirm your Action**  
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Reply to this email to let us know you took action.

If you or your child is on the waiting list, you could include a sentence in the sample letter below how these additional waiver slots will bring you/your child closer to receiving needed services

**Sample Letter**  
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Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

I fully support several proposed changes to the state's system responsible for serving people with developmental disabilities that are included in the Governor's FY 2011 Budget. The consolidation of Northeast and Northwest Supports and Services Centers and the transition of individuals with low support needs in the remaining centers to community- based services are two provisions that reflect best practice. Downsizing of these supports and services centers will allow savings to be realized now and in years to come.

Re-investing the savings into community services to address the needs of the thousands of individuals on the waiting list for home and community based services is very important to me. I'm very encouraged that the Governor included funding for 150 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots for people with developmental disabilities in the budget. These NOW slots will provide much needed services to people living in their own homes who have been waiting up to nine years for services.

This budget will put Louisiana on the right path of reform to provide services so people with developmental disabilities can enjoy a healthier, higher quality of life at less cost to the state. I urge you to join the Governor in promoting these essential reforms and prioritizing community-based services.

Sincerely,

**Background Information**

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Information providing the rationale behind providing independence and integration for persons with developmental disabilities can be found on page 16 of the summary of Governor Jindal's FY2011 Executive Budget. Follow the link below to read this summary, [click here](#).

**Any Questions?**

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If there are any questions about the information in this email contact LaCAN's Coordinator by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

**Contact Information**

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Email: [kay.marcel@cox.net](mailto:kay.marcel@cox.net)  
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