

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Information Alert - Conflicting Budget Cut Information: The True Impact

Conflicting information is being shared by legislators and the administration regarding the impact of the House cutting \$268 million of one-time "rainy day" funds from next year's state budget. The conflict in interpretation over the impact stems from some representatives claiming the amendment making these cuts directs the Commissioner of Administration to consider some general areas to consider making cuts and cause no impact to critical services. Unfortunately, cutting most of these areas either **WOULD** impact critical services or not result in the \$268 million required savings. So the Commissioner indicated that the request to make this level of cuts without impacting critical services is not practical or **even possible under existing laws and the constitution**.

A review of HB1 by the Legislative Fiscal Officer, H. Gordon Monk, concluded that: "While the amendment suggests a number of general reductions, it does not specifically address where these reductions will be taken and allows for other unspecified reductions by the commissioner. Therefore, the Legislative Fiscal Office cannot determine the impact of these reductions on individual agencies.

Since the House left the decision for making the cuts exclusively in the hands of the Commissioner (i.e., Executive Branch/Governor) it seems advisable to respect the Commissioner's interpretation for how these cuts will impact services.

[Click here](#) for Commissioner Rainwater's interpretation of how cutting \$268 million of one-time funds will impact the Department of Health and Hospitals. These cuts are in addition to the \$57 million cut from DHH by the Appropriations Committee.

[Click here](#) to see the House Amendment directing the Commissioner of Administration to cut \$268 million.

[Click here](#) to read the Legislative Fiscal Office's memo to the Chairman of Senate Finance, Senator Jack Donahue, and the members of the Senate Finance Committee.

If you have not already contacted members of the Senate Finance Committee to express your support of NOW waiver slots, restoration of provider rate cuts, EarlySteps, the crucial personal care program for adults with physical disabilities and ALL other DHH programs, there is still time.

HB 1 is expected to be voted out of the Senate Finance Committee on Monday, May 28th. [Click here](#) to see the latest LaCAN action alert.

Any Questions?

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

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