

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Action Alert Reminder - If you haven't already done so, let the Senate Finance Committee Members Know How Budget Cuts will Affect You! Thanks to those (171) that have already confirmed their contact with the senators.

What Can You Do to Help Prevent these Cuts?

Send an email/letter to Senate Finance Committee Members

- Action is needed to restore funds to the Department of Health and Hospital's (DHH) budget and prevent the cuts that would be devastating to Home and Community Services for people with developmental disabilities.
- The Senate Finance Committee began debating the budget (HB1) proposed by the House today and will continue their discussion for at least a few more days
- Contact Information for Senators on the Senate Finance Committee
- Sample Letter
- Confirm your Action
- More Information

I am re-sending this LaCAN Action Alert as a reminder and to update everyone on what happened at the Senate Finance Committee meeting this morning. **Over 40 LaCAN members showed up in their "yellow rally shirts"**. This prompted the committee's chairperson, Senator Mike Michot, to allow a representative of the group to testify even though the committee had not planned to hear public testimony. I was honored to be selected to represent our group. Having the support of all those in the room and knowing so many of you had already contacted the senators made it easy to testify.

After my testimony, Senator Michot read the names of all those present that turned in cards stating their opposition to HB1 and asking the committee to "Fully Restore the Cuts to DHH". Kay Marcel, LaCAN Statewide Coordinator

HB1, the state's budget for next year, passed through the House of Representatives with drastic cuts to DHH's budget that DHH indicates will slash or eliminate home and community based services such as the **Cash Subsidy program** and **Individual and Family Support services** and results in another **7.5 percent rate cut to providers**.

[Click here](#) to read the affect of cuts from DHH (short version).

Call or write Senators on the Senate Finance Committee in your area if you want to let them know how these cuts will affect you, your family or someone you care about.

Contact Information for Members on the Senate Finance Committee

Senator Michael J. "Mike" Michot (Chairman)

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Senator Jack Donahue

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Senator Lydia P. Jackson (Vice-Chairman)

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Sample Letter - Personalize how the cuts will impact you and your family

Dear Senator

I am writing to urge you to restore the \$120 million dollars of state funding that was cut from the Department of Health and Hospitals' (DHH) budget. These funds are needed in HB1 to support vital programs that serve people with disabilities necessary for them to live in the community and out of more expensive institutions. DHH has indicated that the cuts made by the House of Representatives will result in reductions or elimination to programs that support families of adults and children with the most severe disabilities, adults with disabilities who have successfully moved out of nursing homes and nearly 5,000 children who rely on specialized health care. The support these individuals and families receive is their lifeline to maintain their independence in the community - at less cost to the state. Please protect Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens and restore ALL of the cuts to DHH's budget.

Sincerely,

Confirm your Action

Reply to this email to let us know you took action.

Additional Information

The House of Representatives stripped more than \$120 million dollars of State funds from DHH's budget. Since most of these funds would get federal matching dollars these cuts would total reductions of more than \$300 million dollars to cover vital services. DHH has indicated these cuts will result in:

- Elimination of the Cash Subsidy Program for children with severe disabilities in many regions of the state.
- Loss of Individual and Family Support Services for over 300 families of individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state.
- Elimination of contract funding for:
 - the Supported Living Program for individuals with Adult-onset disabilities
 - Children's Hospital Diabetes Clinic
 - Tulane University Hospital-Cystic Fibrosis Clinic
 - LSU Shreveport NICU Follow-up Clinic
 - LSU Earl K. Long Pediatric Clinic.
- Reduction of contract funding to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers
- Services to nearly 5,000 children with special health care needs will be drastically reduced as a result of cuts to Children's Special Health Care Services.
- Elimination of vital community services for 200 people who have successfully transitioned out of psychiatric hospitals.
- Loss of psychiatric medications for non-Medicaid eligible (indigent) persons diagnosed with serious mental illness and/or addictive disorders.
- Elimination of the State Personal Care Assistance Program.
- Cuts to Adult Protective Services for people with disabilities.
- Cuts to Single Point of Entry delaying access to Long Term Personal Care Services and the Elderly Waivers.
- Elimination of plan to expand self direction in DD and elderly waivers statewide.
- 7.5 percent rate reductions to providers of services for people with developmental disabilities

[Click here](#) to read DHH's latest press release on the impact of the most recent cuts.

[Click here](#) for a detailed report by DHH on the impact of the Appropriations Committee amendments. **This does NOT include the additional \$91 Million cuts that were proposed on the House Floor on May 25th. DHH has reported those cuts would result in across the board provider rate cuts.**

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.

Contact Information

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