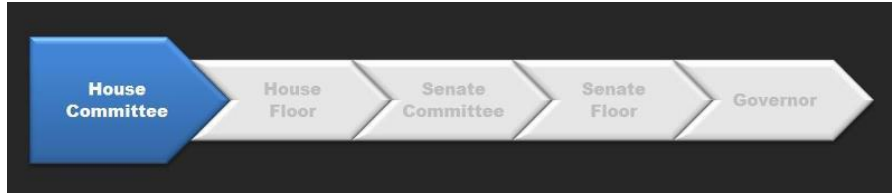


LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

ACTION ALERT - Attend Yellow Shirt Days at the Capitol



Join other LaCAN members at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on **April 16-17th**. The House Appropriations Committee will be hearing public testimony on the upcoming budget. Come and show your support for the funding of 200 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots.

- The Committee will meet in **Room 5** on the House side of the Capitol.
- Wear your **yellow rally shirt**.
- Arrive early, inside by **8:30 am**, to get a seat as other groups plan to be there as well!

If you have not already done so, there is still time to contact (call, email, or write) State Representatives from your region on the Appropriations Committee and the Committee Chair to share the importance of funding these slots.

For more information on how to get involved, contact your regional LaCAN Leader (click [here](#) for contact information).

Contact the Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee

Committee Chairman:

Fannin, James R.
320 6th Street
Jonesboro, LA 71251
(318) 259-6620
larep013@legis.la.gov

Other Committee Members:

Armes, James K.
2255 University Parkway
Leesville, LA 71446
(337) 238-7004
armesj@legis.la.gov

Berthelot, John A.
1024 S. Purpera
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 647-5646
berthelotj@legis.la.gov

Billiot, Robert E.
#10 Westbank Expressway
Westwego, LA 70094
(504) 436-8929
billiotr@legis.la.gov

Hensgens, Bob
407 Charity Street
Abbeville, LA 70510
(337) 893-5035
hensgensb@legis.la.gov

James, Edward C.
3552 Monterrey Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70814
(225) 925-4859
jamest@legis.la.gov

Kleckley, Chuck
130 Jamestown Road
Lake Charles, LA 70605
(337) 475-3016
larep036@legis.la.gov

Brossett, Jared

6305 Elysian Fields Avenue, Suite 404
New Orleans, LA 70122
(504) 286-1033
brossettj@legis.la.gov

Burns, Henry L.

954 Highway 80, Suite 400
Haughton, LA 71037
(318) 949-2463
burnsh@legis.la.gov

Burrell, Roy

820 Jordan Street, Suite. 315A
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 676-7137
larep002@legis.la.gov

Champagne, Simone B.

205 E. Lastie Street
Erath, LA 70533
(337) 937-8827
champags@legis.la.gov

Chaney, Charles R.

P.O. Box 8
Rayville, LA 71269
(318) 728-5875
chaneyb@legis.la.gov

Connick, Patrick

5201 Westbank Expressway, Suite 100
Marrero, LA 70072
(504) 371-0240
connickp@legis.la.gov

Foil, Franklin J.

320 Somerulos Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 342-6777
foilf@legis.la.gov

Geymann, Brett F.

P.O. Box 12703
Lake Charles, LA 70612-2703
(337) 491-2315
larep035@legis.la.gov

Harrison, Joe

P.O. Drawer 1809
Gray, LA 70359
(800) 935-2081
harrisoj@legis.la.gov

Henry, Cameron

1539 Metairie Road, Suite A
Metairie, LA 70005
(504) 838-5433
henryc@legis.la.gov

Leger, Walt III

600 Carondelet Street, 9th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 556-9970
legerw@legis.la.gov

Ligi, Anthony V.

4425 Clearview Parkway, Suite B
Metairie, LA 70006
(504) 456-3173
ligit@legis.la.gov

Montoucet, Jack

112 East Hutchinson Avenue
Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-2999
montoucj@legis.la.gov

Moreno, Helena

643 Magazine Street, Suite 302
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 568-2740
morenoh@legis.la.gov

Morris, James

P. O. Box 217
Oil City, LA 71061
(318) 995-6852
larep001@legis.la.gov

Pope, J. Rogers

P.O. Box 555
Denham Springs, LA 70727
(225) 667-3588
poper@legis.la.gov

Schroder, John M.

522 N. New Hampshire Street, Suite 1
Covington, LA 70433
(985) 893-6262
schrodej@legis.la.gov

Smith, Patricia Haynes

251 Florida Street, Suite 300
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
(225) 342-7106
smithp@legis.la.gov

Thierry, Ledricka

8202 Highway 182
Opelousas, LA 70570
(337) 948-0369
thierryl@legis.la.gov

Sample Letter

Begin your letter by telling *YOUR* story. This can be in a few short sentences. You may want to include:

- **Your name**
- **The name of the individual with a disability you are advocating for and his/her relationship to you**
- **The diagnosis or disability of this individual**
- **How long he/she has been on the NOW waiting list**
(or how long he/she was on the waiting list, if a current NOW recipient).
- **The joys and challenges of this individual's life**
- **How NOW services would benefit this individual and his/her family**
(or how he/she is currently benefiting, if already a NOW recipient).

End your letter by telling your representative how he/she can help (See example below).

Dear Representative,

Please support funding for an additional 200 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots. This is a small number compared to the 8,800 people who wait more than seven years to receive a NOW slot.

Thank you,

Confirm Your Action

Please reply to this email to let us know you took action.

Background Information

The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) included funding for 200 additional NOW slots in their initial budget request but the slots were not included when the Executive Budget was released and presented to the legislature by the Division of Administration. It would cost approximately \$1 Million in state general funds or \$3 Million in total dollars (state and federal combined) to fund the phase-in of these 200 slots.

There are over 8,800 people on the waiver waiting list and the average wait time is seven years.

Several members of the Appropriations Committee have expressed support for these additional NOW slots.

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 LaCAN

Email: laCANadvocates44@yahoo.com

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: <http://www.lacanadvocates.org>

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