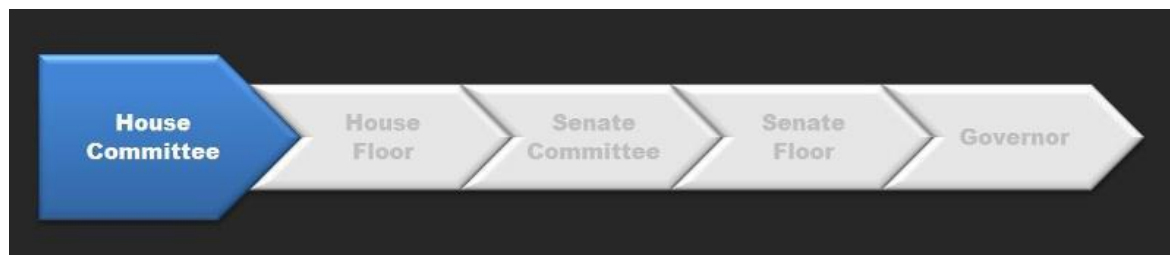


## **ACTION ALERT - Contact Appropriations Committee for 200 NOW Slots**



### **Act Now to Support Funding for 200 Additional NOW Slots**

**Contact** (call, email, or write) State Representatives from your region on the Appropriations Committee and the Committee Chair **now through April 16<sup>th</sup>** if you want them to support funding for 200 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots.

**Join other LaCAN members** at the Appropriations Committee on public testimony days (**April 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**) wearing your yellow rally shirt. More specifics on date and time will be forwarded to you as these become available.

- The Committee will meet in Room 5.
- Arrive early to get a seat!

### **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](mailto:larep013@legis.la.gov)

#### **Other Committee Members From Your Region:**

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

**Foil, Franklin J.**  
320 Somerulos Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(225) 342-6777  
[foilf@legis.la.gov](mailto:foilf@legis.la.gov)

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

**Smith, Patricia Haynes**  
251 Florida Street, Suite 300  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801  
(225) 342-7106  
[smithp@legis.la.gov](mailto:smithp@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](mailto:laCANadvocates44@yahoo.com)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

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

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