

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

ACTION ALERT Reminder - Contact Senate Members to Restore NOW Funding



Reminder: Act Now to Support the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)!

On Monday, May 28th, the Senate Finance Committee passed HB1 with amendments that restored significant portions of the cuts made earlier in the legislative process. This funding will continue to support many critical programs, such as, EarlySteps. However, **funding was cut from the NOW waiver that will result in the loss of 168 NOW slots through attrition and 20 additional slots appropriated by the House. If this funding is not restored no slots will be offered to people on the waiting list in the coming fiscal year.**

Call or leave a message for your Senator *this afternoon or tomorrow (Wednesday or Thursday)* at 225-342-2040 if you would like to express support for the restoration of funding for NOW slots.

The whole Senate will be discussing HB1 on Thursday. Calls or messages will be transferred to them on the Senate floor.

[Click here](#) to find out who your legislator is.

Confirm Your Action

Please [reply](#) to this email to let us know you took action

Additional Information

BACKGROUND:

Several Senators on the committee reported that they did not, in fact, know they were cutting existing NOW slots. The wording of the Finance Committee Amendment #155 might have been misleading ("Deletes additional funding for New Opportunities Waiver slots, including 20 additional slots." pg. 25). In addition to 20 additional NOW slots, this amendment also cuts funding for 168 NOW slots through attrition.

The funding for the 168 NOW slots was originally cut by the House Appropriations Committee back in April. Funding was later restored on the House Floor by Amendment #4199 (by Rep. Harrison) with funding for an additional 20 NOW slots. Rep. Harrison used funds taken from the Inspector General's Office as the source of state general funds (SGF) for this amendment. When the Senate Finance Committee restored the funding for the Inspector General's Office earlier this week, they also cut the funding for the restoration of the waiver slots.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THESE 168 SLOTS?

These 168 NOW slots are currently filled. Approximately 14 slots become vacant each month through attrition, such as, when people pass away, move out of state, or

otherwise give up their slot. As these slots become available a certain number are allocated for people moving out of the state's large institutions, some are held for emergency waiver slots, and the rest are released for people on the waiting list. **If the funding for these slots is not restored, these "attrition" slots will be frozen and not filled. No one off the waiting list will be served in the coming year.**

It is understood the funding is not available from the Inspector General's Office, but parents and advocates are hoping there is another source for this small amount of funds.

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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