

LaCAN

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

ACTION ALERT - Contact Senate Finance to Support DD Services



The House passed the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 with an increase of \$60 Million to unfreeze all waiver slots, a restoration of \$170,000 to Families Helping Families, and an increase of \$500,000 for EarlySteps. However, **there is a strong possibility the waiver funding will be removed in Senate Finance unless another funding source is identified.**

The budget will now be reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee where members will have the opportunity to add or cut funding as they see fit. **The funding added for waiver slots on the House Floor was taken from another program in the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and is at high risk of being returned to that program. It is very important that Senate Finance Committee members understand the need for waiver services so they will make finding another funding source a priority.**

If you believe that waivers, Families Helping Families, and EarlySteps are vital services that should be a priority in our state budget, let Chairman Donahue and Senate Finance Committee members know! There are two ways that you can get involved:

Contact Committee Members by Friday, May 29th

Attend Yellow Shirt Day for Public Testimony Saturday, May 30th 9:00 am - Room A-B Louisiana State Capitol - Baton Rouge

Several LaCAN members have been selected to testify.
Arrive early to ensure you get a seat.
Wear your yellow LaCAN t-shirt.

Contact your [LaCAN Leader](#) for a shirt and/or to find out about carpooling options.

Contact the Chairman and Committee Members from Your Region

Not sure of your region? Click [here](#) for a map.

All Regions
Jack Donahue

Committee Chairman
donahuej@legis.la.gov

(985) 727-7949

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Regions 1/10 Edwin R. Murray | New Orleans Area murraye@legis.la.gov | (504) 945-0042 |
| Region 2 Dan Claitor Mack "Bodi" White | Baton Rouge Area claitord@legis.la.gov whitem@legis.la.gov | (225) 765-0206 (225) 272-1324 |
| Region 3 Bret Allain, II Norby Chabert | Houma/Thibodaux Area allainb@legis.la.gov chabertn@legis.la.gov | (337) 828-9107 (985) 858-2927 |
| Region 4 Bret Allain, II Eric LaFleur Fred H. Mills, Jr. | Lafayette Area allainb@legis.la.gov lafleure@legis.la.gov millsf@legis.la.gov | (337) 828-9107 (337) 363-5019 (337) 365-8484 |
| Region 5 Ronnie Johns Eric LaFleur Blade Morrish | Lake Charles Area johnsr@legis.la.gov lafleure@legis.la.gov morrishd@legis.la.gov | (337) 491-2016 (337) 363-5019 (337) 824-3979 |
| Region 6 Eric LaFleur Gerald Long | Alexandria Area lafleure@legis.la.gov longg@legis.la.gov | (337) 363-5019 (318) 628-5799 |
| Region 7 Sherri Smith Buffington Gregory Tarver | Shreveport Area smithbuffington@legis.la.gov tarverg@legis.la.gov | (318) 687-4820 (318) 227-1499 |
| Regions 8 Francis Thompson Mike Walsworth | Monroe Area thompsof@legis.la.gov walsworthm@legis.la.gov | (318) 878-9408 (318) 340-6453 |
| Region 9 Mack "Bodi" White Jack Donahue | Hammond/Northshore Area whitem@legis.la.gov donahuej@legis.la.gov | (225) 272-1324 (985) 727-7949 |

What to Say

Start by sharing your story:

- Are you or a loved one waiting for waiver services? -- OR -- Are you or a loved one benefiting from waiver services?
- Has your family benefited from the services provided by Families Helping Families?
- Has your child or someone you know benefited from EarlySteps services? -- OR -- Was your child or someone you know recently denied EarlySteps services due to only having delays in one developmental area?
- Or all of the above?

Finish by telling your Senator what he/she can do to help:

- Please provide funding to unfreeze all waiver slots and fund new slots if possible.
- Please keep the funding added in the Appropriations Committee for Families Helping Families and EarlySteps.
- Please add an additional \$2.2 Million for EarlySteps to return the program to its 2012 eligibility criteria.

**If you need additional assistance on what to say,
your LaCAN Leader will be glad to help.**

Click [here](#) for LaCAN Leader contact information.



Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know that you took action!

[Reply](#) to this email or notify your [LaCAN Leader](#) to confirm your action.

Why confirm your action? This helps us to know how effective we are in reaching you with this information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

Background Information

LaCAN members are advocating for the following issues:

- [Funding to fill frozen waiver slots and create 500 new waiver slots](#)
- [Funding for EarlySteps to expand eligibility to previously used criteria](#)
- [Restoration of funding for nine Families Helping Families Centers](#)

Contact Us

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.

Email: info@lacanadvocates.org

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: www.lacanadvocates.org

Like us on Facebook 

LaCAN is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).