



ACTION ALERT - Contact the Joint Budget Committee If You Support DHH and Waiver Services

Last Friday the Governor announced mid-year budget cuts that include **a freeze on the filling of new and/or vacant waiver slots**. The state was in the process of filling approximately 1,200 waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities with funding approved in the 2014 Legislative Session. This process will stop immediately. (No one who has already been offered a slot will be affected by this freeze.)

On Friday, February 20th, **the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) will meet to review and approve the Governor's plan for mid-year cuts**. This plan includes over \$60.66 Million in state agency reductions. The Department of Health and Hospitals will take the second largest hit in the amount of \$13.05 Million (22% of the total amount of cuts). Read the entire deficit reduction plan [here](#).

If you think the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) should be prioritized and waiver slots should continue to be filled, there are **two ways you can take action**:

1. **Call or email members of the JLCB** to share your opinion on how vital waiver services are to the 13,000 Louisianans on the waiting list
2. **Attend the JLCB meeting** at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on February 20th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5. Don't forget to wear your yellow LaCAN t-shirt (Contact your LaCAN Leader for a shirt and/or to find out about carpooling options)

Contact the JLCB Chairman and Committee Members from Your Region

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

Chairman - All Regions

Rep. Jim Fannin, Chairman (318) 259-6620 larep013@legis.la.gov

Region 1

Rep. Wesley Bishop (504) 242-4198 bishop2@legis.la.gov
Rep. Walt Leger III (504) 556-9970 legerw@legis.la.gov
Rep. Helena Moreno (504) 568-2740 morenoh@legis.la.gov
Sen. Edwin Murray (504) 945-0042 murraye@legis.la.gov
Sen. John Alario, Jr. (504) 340-2221 alarioj@legis.la.gov
Rep. Nick Lorusso (504) 483-4711 larep094@legis.la.gov

Region 2

Rep. John Berthelot (225) 647-5646 berthelotj@legis.la.gov
Sen. Sharon Weston Broome (225) 359-9352 lasen15@legis.la.gov
Rep. Franklin Foil (225) 342-6777 foilf@legis.la.gov
Rep. Ted James II (225) 925-4859 james.ted@legis.la.gov
Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith (225) 342-7106 smithp@legis.la.gov
Sen. Mack "Bodi" White (225) 272-1324 whitem@legis.la.gov
Sen. Dan Claitor (225) 765-0206 claitord@legis.la.gov

Region 3

Sen. Norby Chabert (985) 858-2927 chabern@legis.la.gov
Sen. Bret Allain, II (337) 828-9107 allainb@legis.la.gov

Region 4

Rep. Stuart Bishop (337) 981-7409 bishops@legis.la.gov
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Rep. Jack Montoucet (337) 783-2999 montoucj@legis.la.gov
Rep. Joel Robideaux (337) 984-1091 larep045@legis.la.gov
Rep. Ledricka Thierry (337) 948-0369 thierryl@legis.la.gov
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Rep. Bob Hensgens (337) 893-5035 hensgensb@legis.la.gov

Region 5

Rep. James Armes III (337) 238-7004 armesj@legis.la.gov
Rep. Brett Geymann (337) 491-2315 larep035@legis.la.gov
Rep. Bob Hensgens (337) 893-5035 hensgensb@legis.la.gov
Sen. Ronnie Johns (337) 491-2016 johnsr@legis.la.gov
Rep. Chuck Kleckley (337) 475-3016 larep036@legis.la.gov
Sen. Blade Morrish (337) 824-3979 morrishd@legis.la.gov

Region 6

Rep. James Armes III (337) 238-7004 armesj@legis.la.gov
Sen. Gerald Long (318) 628-5799 longg@legis.la.gov
Sen. Neil Riser (318) 649-0977 riscn@legis.la.gov
Sen. Francis Thompson (318) 878-9408 thompsf@legis.la.gov

Region 7

Rep. Henry Burns (318) 949-2463 burnsh@legis.la.gov
Rep. Roy Burrell (318) 676-7137 larep002@legis.la.gov
Rep. Jim Morris (318) 995-6852 larep001@legis.la.gov
Rep. Alan Seabaugh (318) 676-7990 seabaugh@legis.la.gov
Sen. Gregory Tarver, Sr. (318) 227-1499 tarverg@legis.la.gov
Sen. Sheri Smith Buffington (318) 687-4820 smithbuffington@legis.la.gov
Sen. Gerald Long (318) 628-5799 longg@legis.la.gov

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Region 9

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Region 10

Rep. Bryan Adams (504) 361-6013 adamsb@legis.la.gov
Rep. Robert Billiot (504) 436-8929 Billiotr@legis.la.gov
Rep. Patrick Connick (504) 371-0240 connickp@legis.la.gov
Sen. Daniel Martiny (504) 834-7676 martinyd@legis.la.gov
Rep. Nick Lorusso (504) 483-4711 larep094@legis.la.gov

What to Say

Let JLCB members know:

- You have heard about the plan to cut DHH by \$13 Million and freeze vacant waiver slots
 - If you think DHH should be prioritized in the budget
 - If you think waiver services are valuable and how you feel about them being frozen
- How this decision will affect you, your family, or others you care about (Are you or a loved one on the 10-year waiting list for waiver services? Have you or a loved one benefited from waiver services and want others to have this same opportunity?)

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

During the 2014 Legislative Session, members of the legislature allocated funding for the filling of 1,000 vacant waiver slots and 200 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots to help 1,200 of the individuals who have been waiting the longest. The waiting list has reached 13,000!

DHH is currently making offers to fill those slots. However the administration has announced that shortfalls in the state budget will change that. The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget must approve the administration's plan at the end of next week.

If you are one of the tens of thousands waiting for waiver services, or one of the ones who is fortunate to be receiving waiver services, now is the time to let your voice be heard.

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

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