

# LaCAN

## Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

### **ACTION ALERT #18 - Contact Your Senator to Support Disability Services**



The Senate Finance Committee passed the proposed State Budget for FY17 (HB1) restoring funding for many disability services cut by the House. Funding was restored to the following services and programs:

- Children's Choice, Supports, and Residential Options Waivers
- Long Term Personal Care Services (LT-PCS)
- Pediatric Day Health Care Program
- Human Services Districts/Authorities (Funding restored to the level originally proposed in the Executive Budget. However, the Districts/Authorities are still underfunded.)

The current version of HB1 includes:

- \$170,000 cut to Families Helping Families Centers
- No funding to pay overtime for Direct Support Professionals
- No funding to fill vacant waiver slots for those on the waiting list

Advocates very much appreciate the Finance Committee's restoration of the cuts made by the House. The budget will now be considered by the Full Senate this week. The current proposed budget may be viewed as the best case scenario for people with developmental disabilities considering the state's remaining \$600 Million budget shortfall. However, there are still many remaining unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities that can only be addressed if the Legislature raises additional revenue in the Special Session.

Contact your personal State Senator to let them know how you feel about the current version of the proposed budget and the remaining unmet needs that must be addressed in the Special Session.

### **Contact Your State Senator Today and Wednesday**

Click [here](#) for Louisiana State Senate contact information.

Don't know your State Senator? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The second person listed will be your state Senator.

**When the Senate is in session, you can call a member on the Senate Floor at 225-342-2040.**

## What to Say

### Start by sharing your story:

- What negative impact would the elimination and/or cuts to these services have on you, your family, or someone you know?

### Finish by telling your Senator what they can do to help:

- Please keep funding in the budget for waivers and other disability services (specify which services you care about).
- Please remember there are remaining unmet needs that must be addressed in the upcoming Special Session (specify which program/service you care about).

**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.

## 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](mailto:info@lacanadvocates.org)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

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## COMING OCTOBER 2016

**LaCAN & LaTEACH unite into one powerful advocacy network!**



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